Daily Report

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Damascus Declaration Team Rejects Iraqi Request

NC1907075691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—The Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM reported today that the Damascus Declaration foreign ministers have rejected the proposal to hold an Arab League emergency meeting to discuss what Iraq has described as "the U.S. threat to use force to make Iraq reveal its nuclear installations." The paper says that the Arab League general secretariat has been advised by Sudan and Libya that they support Iraq's request.

League Urges Israel To Seek Peace in Lebanon

NC1807153491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1237 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—The Arab League has stressed its determination to continue its efforts to attain the unity and independence of fraternal Lebanon in accordance with the resolutions of Arab and international legitimacy.

In a statement today, the Arab League Secretariat asserted that while it is following the sincere Arab and international efforts to establish peace in the Middle East based on Arab and international legitimacy—particularly following the positive Syrian response to the U.S. President's proposals—it hopes that Israel will seize the opportunity provided by this favorable atmosphere to push ahead with the peace process instead of continuing its attacks on southern Lebanon and some villages in western al-Biqa'. The statement notes that the aim of such attacks is to obstruct the peace process and squander the chances of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The Arab League Secretariat added that while it follows with great concern the Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon, it declares its determination to continue the struggle to support and drive forward the peace process for the sake of the region's peoples.

The Arab League Secretariat appealed to the international community, represented by the United Nations and other international peaceloving forces, to deter Israel and compel it to adhere to the resolutions of Arab and international legitimacy, not merely regarding Lebanon but also on the Arab-Israeli conflict, as it did in other regions.

'Abd-al-Majid To Visit Lebanon, Syria, Jordan

NC1807155291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has stated that the tour he will start tomorrow will take him to Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. He added that the tour is part of his contacts with the Arab states to learn their leaders' views on joint Arab action and to enlist their support for the Arab League during the present historical developments.

In a statement today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said another objective of his tour is to clear the Arab atmosphere and unite ranks after what happened as a result of the Gulf war. He said that he also will brief the leaders of these states on the studies made to amend the Arab League Charter and establish an Arab court of justice to settle disputes among Arab states.

The Arab League secretary general added that his visit will give him the opportunity to learn the Arab leaders' views on the current important political developments in the region—especially in the wake of Syria's positive response to U.S. President George Bush's proposals to establish peace in the region—because the Arab League is prepared to exert every effort to propel the regional peace process.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that during his visit to Lebanon, which he has not visited for a long time, he will discuss current developments there, namely that the Lebanese Government has begun to establish the state's legitiamte authority on the Lebanese territory.

He added that the Arab League is eager to support the Lebanese Government in completing establishment of its authority over Lebanese territory and that the League will support Lebanon's call for Israel to implement Resolution 425 of 1978 which provides for Israel's withdrawal from all Lebanese territory.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid noted that he will obtain the opinions of Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and senior Lebanese officials on the role the Arab League should play to support Lebanon, especially regarding the reconstruction of Lebanon and aiding it in all fields.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said he also will discuss with the Lebanese officials the recurring Israeli attacks on south Lebanon. He indicated he will not visit south Lebanon during his visit because his time is limited.

The Arab League secretary general added that the League Secretariat General has not yet received a response from any Arab state to Iraq's proposal to form a committee to inspect the Iraqi nuclear installations and sites. He said the Secretariat has received Sudan's approval of the Iraqi proposal to convene an emergency meeting of the Arab League at the level of foreign ministers to discuss the U.S. threats to Iraq.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said he will hold contacts with many leading officials in the Arab capitals to arrange for his visits to them, which will complete his Arab states tour. This tour provides an outlet for these states to sound their views on ways to consolidate Arab solidarity and unite the ranks during the coming phase and to promote the work of the Arab League.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid began his Arab tour by visiting the Gulf Cooperation Council states in early June.

Arab League Official on Boycott of Israel

NC1807185491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—'Adnan 'Imran, Arab League assistant secretary general, has stated that the Arab boycott of Israel is part of events surrounding the Arab-Israeli conflict and came as a result of Israel's occupation of Arab territories and its refusal to recognize the Palestinian people's rights. He said this boycott is in accordance with international law and the sovereignty principle for all countries.

Commenting on the resolutions adopted by the summit of the seven major industrialized countries in London two days ago, 'Adnan 'Imran declared that these resolutions had positive aspects regarding the Middle East issue. He noted they emphasized the territory-for-peace principle and urged a halt to the illegal Israeli activity of building settlements.

'Imran said it is necessary for the industrialized countries to seek to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and not allow Israel to make any gains that are bound to further complicate the Arab-Israeli conflict. The industrialized countries called in their resolutions for halting Israel's settlement building in the occupied territories and ending the Arab boycott of Israel.

Arab Paper: Region Tries 'Pleasing Washington'

PM1807144491 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 17 Jul 91 p1

['Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan article: "Not a Historic Opportunity"]

[Text] The "moderate" Arab leaders have responded to all U.S. requests even when such requests have run contrary to sacrosanct and consistent Arab principles and even when they have gone beyond historically "prohibited" limits. We have not to this day heard of a single response by the United States and its honorable and esteemed president, the liberator of Kuwait and destroyer of Iraq, to any request by any Arab leader—a response that would reflect the U.S. Administration's respect for Arab leaders and appreciation for their policies, a response that would demonstrate that it is not a one-sided love.

The United States asked some Arabs to support its intervention in the Gulf crisis. They responded immediately and without delay. Iraq was hit even after its withdrawal from Kuwait, but there were no objections. The United States is now making fabrications about Iraq's nuclear capabilities in order to justify another aggression. Nobody has protested—not even as a pretence.

The United States dropped the international peace conference formula. Some Arabs accepted it, others did not dare object. The UN role was marginalized, but nobody even whispered an objection. Judging by developments, they would not object even if the United States abandoned the idea of a peace conference and abandoned the United Nations and appointed Shamir as sole ruler of the entire region.

It is sad that the Arabs, and especially the Westernized Arabs, now suffer from the "acceptance" disease, having previously suffered from a "rejection" complex for 40 years. Now Israel is the candidate for contracting the rejection disease. Extremism, either on the far right or on the far left, is now an Arab characteristic, though we are a middle-of-the-road nation.

All Arab policies at present seem to be based on taking all the necessary precautions not to upset Washington, avoiding anything that could result in their being accused of aborting the peace plans and doing everything possible to prompt the Israelis—not the Arabs—to say "no." Pleasing Washington is the ultimate objective, and some see this as an "attainable objective."

But what if Israel says "yes" and ruins all the calculations? What if it goes to the peace conference as a maneuver and then begins to reap the fruits of that maneuver through a normalization of relations with the Gulf states and the demoliton of the psychological barrier with the rest of the Arabs and succeeds where the late Anwar al-Sadat failed?

It has been leaked to us that the Americans are saying that the aim is to hold a peace conference and bring Israel to the negotiating table. It is not known what would happen after that, but when did Israel refuse to negotiate with the Arabs on its own terms, not on Arab terms, and who will guarantee us that such negotiations would produce positive results for the Arabs and would not go on and on for 20 or 30 years—that is, if they ever got started?

Some people have hailed the positive Syrian response to President Bush's proposals, and political experts have said that the ball is now in the Israeli court, and they expect a confrontation between Washington and Tel-Aviv. What if Israel returns the ball to the Arab court and averts the expected confrontation with Washington as it has done so often in the past?

To be clear, we ask once again: What if Israel makes some new conditions for participation in the conference, such as to exclude the "Jerusalem" issue, to exclude Jerusalem residents from the delegation to the conference, to demilitarize the Golan, an Israeli security presence there, or to muzzle the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations and not allow it to speak, as would be the case regarding the UN delegate under the proposed U.S. plan?

Those raising the "yes" banner these days are suspicious of anyone who even tries to question that "yes." They emphasize that the Arab rejection of all past solutions was wrong. They even shed tears over the autonomy referred to in the second part of the Camp David agreements, maintaining that that was a golden opportunity which we missed, as though Israel were ready to

give us anything, had we accepted what was proposed in the past, from the partition resolution time to the present day. If the word "no" has cost us dearly, how much will the rash "yes"—spoken out of despair—cost us?

Some people judge that the rejection of the partition resolution was wrong on the basis of current circumstances—that is, 43 years after the fact—not the circumstances which prevailed at the time when three quarters of the world supported us and when the Jewish population were only a handful compared with the Arab population.

The Arab and Palestinian enemies of rejection forget that certain Arab states—including Jordan, Egypt, and Syria—openly accepted UN Security Council Resolution 242 but that acceptance did not give us back a single inch of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights.

We are all for peace, restoring territory, and minimizing losses, and we realize that this is a "historic opportunity," that the settlements are creeping up like snakes to cover what is left of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and that 4 million Jewish immigrants are on their way to Palestine. Every Palestinian child knows these facts, but we want to know the rules of the game before joining in, or we want to know the nature of the game in advance and whether or not we are invited or would have to play the false role of spectator.

There is an old saying among the simple Palestinians whom many people have forgotten. The saying goes: "You can tell in the afternoon if it is going to be a happy night." All the indications are that it is going to be a pitch dark night heralding no happiness at all. It is simply a matter of deceiving the Arabs and, of course, the Palestinians. We hope our pessimism is unjustified.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Member on Syrian Reply, Arab 'Unilateralism'

JN1907083491 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Jul 91 p 15

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and chief of the media department, has said that the PLO has not yet studied the Syrian response to the U.S. proposals.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, he said that as far as the PLO is concerned, positivity is measured by the extent of adherence to a peace conference on a clear basis. The conference, he explained, should ensure Israel's full withdrawal from Palestinian and Arab territories and the Palestinian people's right to self- determination. He added: There is also the Arab insistence that the conference should not be convened without the participation of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories through their sole legitimate representative and their legitimate institutions which all Arabs and most world nations recognize.

The PLO official asked: What is the value of a conference attended by a symbolic UN delegate and without the participation of the representatives of the Palestinian people on equal footing with all other parties?

Neglecting or dividing Palestinian representation and rights is a serious step that leads only to a new series of concessions, graver than those made at Camp David, 'Abd-Rabbuh said.

He added: We and our Palestinian people will not be concerned about any conference or peace formula if we do not fully participate in it or decide on the basis on which the conference is convened. Any position adopted by any Arab side concerns this side alone. In their positions, the Palestinians will proceed from their interests and rights to ensure a solution to their national cause, which is the essence of the conflict in the region. Let us see if anyone can prepare for or participate in a peace conference without a full Palestinian role and participation.

'Abd-Rabbuh stressed that there were no consultations with the PLO before the Arab responses were given to the U.S. Administration. He described the Israeli rejection of the Syrian response as a continuation of Israel's traditional method of blackmailing the Arabs into further concessions. Washington will do nothing vis-a- vis this new Israeli intransigence, he said. Indeed, he added, Baker will probably ask the Arab countries for further flexibility to please Israel, so that when any negotiations start, we will have no single card to play with.

He said: We called for an Arab meeting to coordinate our positions, but there was no favorable response. This was also Jordan's desire. Why should the policy of unilateralism continue, and does it really serve Arab issues?

He described Baker's current tour as a continuation of the attempt to obtain additional Arab concessions. We are not concerned about any discussions of Palestinian affairs held with any party, he said, adding that if Baker wants to discuss anything related to the Palestine question, he should go to the PLO alone.

'Abd-Rabbuh said the PLO has several options, including summoning the Palestine National Council, which is the highest Palestinian legislative body, into an extraordinary session to discuss a comprehensive Palestinian response to this conspiracy against our people's cause.

Concluding his statement to AL-RA'Y, 'Abd-Rabbuh said there is a full Jordanian-Palestinian understanding, agreement to continue consultations, and eagerness to take unified position toward all current and forthcoming developments.

'Arafat Gives Soviet Envoy 'Important Message'

LD1807183891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar, president of the state of Palestine, entrusted the ambassador of the Soviet Union in Tunis, Boris Shchiborin, with an important message to the

Soviet leadership when he received him this afternoon. The message is related to the latest developments in the Middle East region in general and to the latest developments in the Palestinian problem and the situation of our people under Zionist occupation in particular.

The meeting dealt with the situation of our Palestinian people in the occupied territories, where the Zionist occupation authorities are stepping up their savage and repressive measures. It also dealt with the necessity of providing the necessary protection for our people.

The Soviet ambassador reiterated his country's stance in support of our Palestinian people under the leadership of its sole legitimate representative, the PLO, for the recovery of its firm national and inalienable rights.

'Arafat Receives Swedish Foreign Minister Message

LD1707191991 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Jul 91

[Text] Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received an important message from Mr. Sten Andersoon, the Swedish foreign minister. Brother president Abu-'Ammar received the message last night when he met Mr. Mathias Mossberg, the special envoy of the foreign minister, and Mr. Faxen, the Swedish ambassador in Tunis. The meeting also dealt with the latest developments of the situation, the international efforts being exerted to establish peace in the region, and the stubborn and antipeace Israeli stand.

PLO Official Meets Spanish Foreign Minister

LD1707202191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Jul 91

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] member of the Fatah Central Committee and general director of the PLO economic affairs and planning department, met yesterday with Spanish Foreign Minister Fernandez-Ordonez at the Foreign Ministry in Madrid where they discussed the latest developments in the Middle East, the Palestinian problem, and the international efforts to establish peace in the region as well as the economic and social situation in the Palestinian occupied territories.

The Spanish foreign minister stressed Spain's stand in support of the firm Palestinian people's rights and Spain's perseverence in giving political and economic support and aid to the Palestinian people until a just peace is reached in the region.

Brother Abu-'Ala' conveyed greetings from Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to His Majesty the king of Spain and the prime minister, and highly praised the friendly Spanish stand.

Brother Abu-'Ala' held a meeting at the headquarters of the Spanish agency for international cooperation with Mariano Alonso-Baron, director general of the International Cooperation Department and a number of officials in the agency. The discussion revolved around ways of developing bilateral cooperation and Spain's support for our people inside the occupied territories.

PLO Envoy Publishes 'Open Letter' to Bush

PM1807155491 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 17 Jul 91 p 5

[Unattributed "exclusive" report: "A Palestinian Open Letter To The U.S. President"]

[Text] London—'Afif Safiyah, head of the PLO mission, has expressed the hope that U.S. President George Bush will seize the opportunity of his country's becoming "the world's policeman" to play an effective part in establishing peace between the Arabs and Israel. In an open letter to President Bush on the occasion of the latter's participation in the seven industrialized nations' summit in London, Safiyah said that he could not understand President Bush's reluctance to give the United Nations a role in the Middle East peace process because it was he who used international legitimacy as the grounds for waging the Gulf war. He added that he would find the Palestinian people willing to cooperate with it in its endeavor to establish peace as long as it is based on international legitimacy and international resolutions.

He also said that Israel was supposed to be the solution to the Jewish problem and that the Palestinian issue now requires equal treatment because the Palestinians' plight has remained unresolved for a long time. The two-states solution, he said, could be the ideal, durable, and acceptable solution that will lead to stability in the region. Safiyah said that President Yasir 'Arafat is our De Gaulle and we look forward to a new U.S. Eisenhower who will establish peace in the region. He added that he might be that man.

Comment on Need for Arab Unity After Gulf War

LD1807135191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, however the cards may have been shuffled by the Gulf crisis and however the viewpoints, or the Arab attitudes, may have varied toward it, this crisis must not impose itself on the political future of the region or shape it in line with the rigid or intransigent attitudes that some forces in the region believe will last forever. That is because the higher interest of the Arab nation, unity of destiny, and Arab security require the rearrangement of the cards based on joint Arab action, which is inevitable for confronting the stormy winds of change that howl in the depth of human societies thus placing them on the brink of deterioration and collapse or qualifying them for development worthy of life.

Ignorance and tribalism are to no avail; what does avail is the political, social, and economic open-mindedness that drives toward a calculated progress and gains points for success, despite the great degree of bitterness left in the

souls. We are required, above all, to perform an extraordinary act that can be made only by those who can distinguish precisely between the important and the more important and sometimes between the trivial and the most important. We are required to debate openly and secretly, to make contacts, to consent, and to reconcile on the basis of understanding not on the bases of kissing beards, and to coordinate among ourselves to battle together under a single slogan, that we are a nation worthy of living and that we must inevitably hold our place in the future of human civilization, not only in its past.

On this premise the Palestinian diplomacy moves, open on the Arab and international horizon, continuing its message in purifying the Arab atmosphere, believing for sure that the Palestinian question, which is at the focus of Arab and Middle Eastern issues, requires a joint Arab effort, not Arab divisions that harm it.

On this premise also, the PLO, in the person of Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], has striven with all it possesses to form an Arab position that appeared to be retreating because of the Gulf crisis and that is attached to it. The organization was careful that the nucleus of this formation should be a joint attitude on the part of the confrontation states to deal seriously and effectively with the initiatives and peace projects, based on the Arab interest and on international resolutions and principles.

Although the PLO leadership took the initiative in making intensive contacts with the confrontation states which began to make progress and succeed, the organization was always scrupulous about the fact that the Arab sphere is indivisible, that the attitude of the confrontation states should be based on a more comprehensive Arab attitude, and that this matter requires intensive and parallel activity to clear the Arab atmosphere without which the driving force capable of achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region and the world cannot be formed.

Hence the move by the president of Palestine to meet with the Egyptian prime minister in Libya, President Saddam Husayn in Baghdad, King Husayn and Tahir al-Masri in Jordan, in addition to the meetings of the Palestinian leadership with the Egyptian foreign minister. This move comes in order to break the deadlock and, more importantly, to contribute to dispersing the thick cloud arising from the sands of the Gulf and over its ruining crisis.

This move may remind people that arriving at common denominators and a joint Arab action program requires the extraordinary act we mentioned which does not exclude Iraq from the action program because it does not distract the mind from the fact that Iraq's force, in the final analysis, is an Arab force, and that the U.S. demands, which go to the extent of threatening Iraq with a new war if it does not destroy its nuclear facilities' potential, must be tied to the clear and firm Arab demand that the United States and the international society do the same; that is, the destruction of Israeli nuclear weapons. This is the real road to peace, and there can be no peace with oppression, domination, and different standards.

Algeria

Political Parties Conference Set for 30-31 Jul

LD1807201391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] At the meeting, or the debate, between Prime Minister Ghozali and the national and international press at Ibn Khaldoun hall, it seems that there is something new. We immediately get in touch with our special envoy Mariam Yacine:

[Yacine] Well, the news is the date announced by Mr. Ghozali concerning the national conference of political parties with the government. It is important information. The date announced for the national conference of political parties is 30 and 31 July.

Ghozali News Conference on Dialogue

LD1907000691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] In an open and frank dialogue of more than four hours with the national and international press, Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali, head of government, dealt with outstanding issues in the national arena, including preparations under way for early legislative elections, means for overcoming the economic crisis, and duties of the transitional government and how dialogue can be organized with national political parties, in addition to the role of the press in the consecration of democracy. More light on these matters with the following report from correspondent Hassiba:

[Hassiba] Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali, head of government, held a news conference with the national and international press at Ibn Khaldoun Hall today. The news conference dealt with various outstanding issues in all spheres of the national scene. He provided extensive explanations about his government's agenda and orientations.

The head of government pointed out the invitation extended to all parties to sit around a national table for dialogue and discussion on 30 and 31 July in order to prepare for early legislative elections.

The head of government asserted that the date for legislative elections has yet to be fixed. He stressed, however, that they will be held as soon as possible. Ghozali added that dialogue with parties, including the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], is aimed at drawing up a draft election proposal that will be acceptable to and reassuring for the citizen. He also stressed the elections will be free and honest.

Ghozali insisted that there was no preconceived idea on this matter to be submitted to the parties. His aim is to structure a dialogue. The head of government added that the draft electoral bill must reexamine the administrative division and the type of balloting, which were the two factors behind the recent FIS-instigated events.

The head of government asserted that the duration of his government will not exceed five or six months and that it is independent of all parties.

Concerning Algeria's sale of some of its oil resources in Hassi Messaoud, the head of government pointed out that the matter did not mean that Hassi Messaoud itself was sold off. It means that oil reserves have been sold to foreign companies in exchange for advance payment in hard currency in order to face up to the country's foreign debts, which are estimated at $25 billion in 1991. The aim of this advance sale of some resources, Ghozali added, is merely to increase Algerian oil production, because the national oil company cannot rapidly increase its production. Hassi Messaoud oil field's reserves are estimated at five billion tons of crude oil, of which the national company can exploit only 18 percent.

Sid Ahmed Ghozali stressed that he will propose a draft bill to consecrate the motto "How Did You Own This," which means that officials should disclose their wealth prior to being appointed. The head of government added that such a draft bill falls within the framework of guaranteeing the country's public interest, as well as the integrity of officials, so there will be no ambiguity about the wealth of any official.

More on News Conference

LD1907091891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Excerpts] In a news conference yesterday attended by the national and international press, Prime Minister Ghozali denied that his program has resorted to placing previous governments on trial. [passage omitted]

Concerning the subject of human rights and excesses committed under the shadow of the state of siege, the prime minister said that the state of siege is itself an excess, but within the framework of the constitution, since there are reasons which led to the state of siege. Ghozali said that the army is not responsible for what the situation has come to; rather, it is those politicians who exploited the youth who are responsible. Ghozali noted that while the siege has been alleviated, there are those who are still committed to violence in order to impose their will on the whole people. [passage omitted]

Turning to the date for the early legislative and presidential elections, Ghozali said that the government has not set a date for the parliamentary elections, but hopes that the elections will not be delayed if possible. Concerning the presidential elections, the prime minister said—after recalling that the president had announced that they would be brought forward—that their date remains the prerogative of the president of the republic.

In reply to questions on the detentions which took place in recent weeks, Ghozali said that many detainees have been released; only 600 persons remain in detention, he added, and they will be put on trial in accordance with the law. Concerning the detention of some heads of

municipalities, Ghozali said the measure concerns those who committed mistakes and violated the laws. In this respect, he expressed his regret that some municipalities had been turned into offices for a certain party and even into ammunition stores. [passage omitted]

Changes in National Liberation Front Rumored

LD1807110891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] The National Liberation Front Party Central Committee's ordinary session continues today. A member of the committee announced yesterday that the proceedings are concentrated on rejuvenating the party. The same speaker pointed out that the issues discussed on the first day included the subject of legislative elections. The party's spokesman refused to answer journalists' questions about whether the issue of appointing a successor to President Chadli Bendjedid, who resigned from the chairmanship of the party, had been discussed. Some sources revealed—without any confirmation—that a new Political Bureau will be elected, and that Abedlhamid Mehri would be replaced.

Reports, which we point out are unofficial, are circulating that the man who will succeed Mr. Mehri will either be Mr. Mouloud Hamrouche or Mr. Taleb Ibrahimi. It is known that the Central Committee proceedings are being conducted in closed sessions.

Egypt

Israeli Foreign Minister To Visit at End of Jul

NC1807145991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1413 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi will visit Egypt toward the end of July for talks on Middle East peace, as part of the consultations Egypt is holding with the parties involved.

'Amr Musa said Egypt is playing an active, intensive role to push the peace process forward. He said this role is represented by the contacts Egypt is holding with all the parties. He noted that Egypt is holding intensive contacts with Syria, the United States, and the Palestinians, and that Egypt will receive the Israeli foreign minister within this context.

He described U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Egypt, which will begin tomorrow, as one "of special importance" because it comes after the Syria's positive response to the U.S. proposals on peace in the region. He said that with the Syrian response, all the Arab parties concerned have given their positive response to start the peace process and hold negotiations on the Middle East problem and the Palestinian issue.

The foreign minister added that what remains is the Israeli position. He expressed hope that this position will develop into one of cooperation to achieve a peaceful settlement.

'Amr Musa added that the parties concerned with the peace process are Egypt, Israel, Syria, Jordan, and the Palestinians. He noted that there also is communication currently with other parties.

The foreign minister said he does not want to speak about the details of this communication. He noted, however, that the peace process is based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which state that it is not permissible to occupy other countries' territories by force of arms.

He asserted that the United Nations must play a role in the peace process as far as the implementation of its resolutions is concerned. He explained that this in no way diminishes the importance of negotiations to this peace process.

'Amr Musa said that there is a real chance to attain peace, and that Egypt hopes none of the concerned parties will destroy this chance because peace is in the interest of all the region's countries.

Regarding Israeli acts of aggression against Lebanon, 'Amr Musa said Egypt condemns any aggression, particularly aggression against a part of the Arab world.

Answering a question about eliminating weapons of mass destruction, the foreign minister said Egypt supports disarmament and arms limitation on the condition this is carried out in a balanced way that makes no exception for any country. He said that this issue might be raised with the U.S. secretary of state if time allows.

Mubarak, Germany's Kohl Confer by Phone

NC1807175791 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] German Chancellor Helmut Kohl telephoned President Husni Mubarak from London this afternoon. They consulted over the current international and Arab situation. The German chancellor is in London for the summit conference of the seven major industrial countries.

Mubarak on Economy, Upcoming UK, France Visits

NC1807110691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has said that the results the Egyptian delegation led by Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning, achieved at the meetings of the international consultative group in Paris include a pledge that aid to Egypt will not be reduced and will total $4 billion annually instead of $3.2 billion. In addition, the ratio of grants and soft loans, which are repaid over 40 years with 10 year-grace period, will be increased.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH Chief Editor Makhluf al-Ansari published today, President Mubarak said that the social fund's capital will be increased to $750 million earmarked for retraining workers and funding small vocational projects.

Mubarak said that of the $4 billion that will be offered to Egypt in 1991-1992, 63 percent will be in grants, 27 percent in soft loans to be repaid over 50 years, and only 10 percent in ordinary loans. It was also pledged that, of the funds to be allocated for 1992-1993, 43 percent will be in grants and 47 percent in soft loans to be repaid over 50 years.

President Mubarak said that the world has supported Egypt in appreciation for its role in safeguarding stability in one of the most important regions of the world and in supporting international legitimacy. He noted that Dr. al-Jamzuri told him that the Paris meetings were in fact an international demonstration of support for Egypt by well over 100 international personalities representing 18 countries and 13 Arab, international, regional, and Islamic funding establishments.

In response to an question on imminent changes in the National Democratic Party and its leadership, President Mubarak said: We will hold elections beginning in October, and preparations for them are under way.

Asked what issues are currently on his mind, President Mubarak said: I was preoccupied by the issue of bridging the gap in supplies, but what is now constantly preoccupying me is the Egyptian citizen's well-being.

President Mubarak pointed out that high prices are often caused by the opportunism of certain people. He said that the problems currently facing us have been building up since the 1940's, and stressed that population growth plays a serious and complicated role. Economic reform is the only way to confront this situation, because I do not want Egypt to get to the point reached by other countries. [passage omitted]

Asked whether there will be any new changes, President Mubarak said: To me, true change involves methods and style. He noted that the new public sector law changes both these aspects. He said that changing individuals and ministers is not out of the question, but what counts is real reform and the ability to work and give.

On the goal of his upcoming visit to the United Kingdom and France, President Mubarak said that this is the first "state visit" an Egyptian president has paid to the UK since the 1940's. A state visit is on a higher level than an official visit. He said that, in addition to official receptions, he will hold talks with British Prime Minister John Major on the international situation, the regional situation, the Middle East crisis, and bilateral relations. He said that Britain took an excellent position at the Paris Club talks, the consultative group meetings, and in direct contacts and instances of bilateral cooperation.

Asked about choosing to visit Britain on 23 July, the anniversary of the Egyptian revolution, President Mubarak said: We celebrate the anniversary of the revolution on 22 July, not on 23 July, which is an official holiday when everything is closed. This anniversary used to be celebrated by military parades, but these have not been held since 1967. He wondered what is wrong in celebrating 23 July at royal Buckingham Palace in Britain which will be celebrating me on that day. I therefore ...ll those angered by the visit's timing that this visit honors neither Egypt nor the revolution. He said that his visit to France will only last several hours, during which he will hold talks with President Mitterrand and then return to Cairo. [passage omitted]

Peace Seen Hinging on Territory-for-Peace Formula

NC1907141291 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Commentary by Muhammad Sharaf: "Peace in the Middle East Hinges on Israel's Acceptance of the Territory-for-Peace Formula"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will begin a new Middle East tour, his fifth since last March, with strong and clear international support for beginning Arab-Israeli peace negotiations with complete conciseness. By this we are talking of the declaration by the leaders of the seven major industrial countries at the London summit that they support the U.S. initiative for peace in the region, the territory-for-peace principle as a foundation for resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict, and urge a halt to building settlements in the occupied territories. It is well known that the territory-for-peace principle is the core of U.S. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 on resolving the region's conflict. The U.S. starting point on the current peace process was the declaration by U.S. President Bush in the wake of the Gulf war, which said it is necessary to begin negotiations among the concerned parties in the region based on the territory-for-peace principle.

The U.S. initiative to begin negotiations among the concerned parties on two levels—between Israel and Palestinian representatives on one side and Israel and the Arab countries on the other—enjoyed complete Arab and international support. The Arab position lacked only a Syrian response to the U.S. proposals. Such a response now has come and in such a positive manner that it confronts the international community with its responsibility.

After the EC and the USSR declared their support for the U.S. efforts, the statement of the seven major powers at the London summit emphasized the clarity of the international view of Middle East peace and the foundations on which it can be built.

Only Israel's position and what the United States will do about it remain, as President Hosni Mubarak noted in remarks following his meeting with Syrian President al-Asad.

We do not want to jump to conclusions as the U.S. secretary of state prepares for his fifth regional tour

which, according to very telling signs, will be decisive. But initial Israeli reactions to the Syrian response and the statement by the seven major industrial powers deserve a pause and an important comment.

Israel's deputy foreign minister has stated that he feels anxious about the London summit's endorsement of the territory-for-peace principle, and that Israel's abandonment of settlement building means relinquishing its own security. Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens said there is no room to set preconditions before the negotiations start. A statement by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's office said in effect that Israel will not reject direct negotiations with Syria but will, however, strongly cling to all its positions and principles. According to reports, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi told the Knesset that Israel and the United States have an understanding on basic points, among which is this: Israel does not have to accept the territory-for-peace formula as a precondition.

Our most important comment on these initial Israeli reactions is that no one is setting preconditions for the negotiations. Nevertheless, it is certain that the territory-for-peace formula will automatically come to the fore right from the start. In fact, there are no issues between Israel and the Arab countries on which agreement is difficult to reach, except Israel's refusal to withdraw from the Arab territories it occupied during the 1967 aggression and its refusal to recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate political rights. As for the other issues, such as ending the Arab boycott of Israel, agreement on water distribution, the general normalization of Arab-Israeli relations, and mutual security guarantees, it is possible to reach understanding and agreement on them.

What we wish to stress is that unless Israel is truly ready to accept the territory-for-peace principle and recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, negotiations will not produce any results. The international community understands this well, as expressed by the London summit's statement.

Columnist Urges Removal of Yasir 'Arafat

NC1907044891 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 15 Jul 91 p 5

[Column by Muhammad al-Hayawan: "Word of Love"]

[Text] What did Yasir 'Arafat tell 'Atif Sidqi in Libya? Did he say he had made a mistake and would not do it again? Can the Egyptian prime minister believe him? 'Arafat has often wronged Egypt and never learned his lesson. He used to visit Cairo, which would embrace him, and would say nice things. He would then depart Cairo and withhold all that he said here. He became well known for saying one thing in Cairo and the opposite outside it, attacking Cairo for no reason, and not missing a chance to attack Egypt.

'Arafat's history with Cairo is not clean: He led the campaign in Baghdad to boycott Egypt. Saddam Husayn used to influence him to make inappropriate remarks at the Baghdad summit conference. In his remarks, 'Arafat mentioned such things as shoes, bedrooms, and breaking into Arab rulers' bedrooms. He continued to strive against Egypt's return to the Arab League. He rejected King Fahd's proposal at the Algiers emergency summit. He refused more than once any mention of Egypt. All that he cared for at the summit conferences was to obtain aid. He would not tell the truth about the amount of aid he received. At Baghdad's latest summit, he said he received $20 million from Kuwait, although he received $80 million. He has never been contented.

What did 'Arafat tell the Egyptian prime minister? Did he tell him he did not support Saddam Husayn's invasion of Kuwait, that he did not order the Palestinians in Kuwait to assist the invasion forces, and that he did not try to threaten the Gulf countries? What did he say? Did he refute his latest statement that he would launch assassination campaigns against the Kuwaiti leadership and the Gulf countries' interests? Did he deny recent reports that he sent special forces to Baghdad to launch sabotage operations against the Gulf countries? Could he deny there was a plot against Egypt and that he participated in its planning? Thank God, Egypt uncovered this plot.

Yasir 'Arafat is an ugly face that is rejected on the Arab and international levels. He has to go. The Palestinian people have to choose a new leadership that does not lie, plan plots, take part in planning armed invasions, or is ungrateful. Egypt has done a great deal for 'Arafat, but he denied this. 'Arafat must go because his existence does injustice to the Palestinian cause and people, who bear the consequences of many of 'Arafat's mistakes. All peoples must suffer the mistakes of their leaders until those leaders are gone. When 'Arafat is gone, we can begin anew discussing the Palestinian issue, because his existence is an obstacle to the peace efforts and to restoring confidence in the Palestinian people, who are scattered abroad and throughout the Arab world and occupied territory. The cards have been shuffled, and everyone bears the consequences of 'Arafat's mistakes and contradictory positions. Suffice to say that 'Arafat, who is demanding the occupied territory, agreed to the occupation and annexation of Kuwait, as if to give Shamir a strong reason to annex the occupied territory of Palestine. 'Arafat served as an attorney for Mr. Shamir. If he meant that, he has committed betrayal and must go. If he did not mean it, but was naive, not fit to lead the people, he still must go because the peoples' interests must not be governed by traitors or dupes.

Paper Sees U.S. Campaign Against Iraq, Pakistan

NC1907044791 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 16 Jul 91 p 1

[Article by chief editor Jalal Duwaydar: "What About the Israeli Blackmail?"]

[Excerpts] No one accepts Saddam Husayn's possession of nuclear weapons after he proved his insanity and

aggressiveness by occupying Kuwait and threatening all the Gulf countries. But at the same time, the region's peoples also refuse to remain silent about the presence of nuclear weapons in Israel, which are used to blackmail and threaten all Arab region countries.

The enthusiasm that dominates the U.S. behavior toward removing Saddam Husayn's nuclear capabilities must—from the premise of fairness and a desire for peace—also include the State of Israel, which is persisting with its aggressive policy and increasing its nuclear capabilities, which U.S. organs have exposed, either intentionally or otherwise. [passage omitted]

Public opinion in Egypt and the Arab world certainly has been provoked by this violent campaign against Iraq, which was subjected to destruction and ruin because of Saddam's intransigence in implementing the UN resolutions on inspecting nuclear facilities.

Everyone here is asking why the U.S. Administration excludes Israel from these measures. This stand, in addition to the indecisiveness in dealing with Israel's prevarication in order to evade the peace process, hint at a lack of credibility in U.S. policy and its continued subjection to Zionist influence and blackmail. [passage omitted]

What also raises doubts about the Zionist lobby's support for this U.S. enthusiasm are those campaigns against the Islamic State of Pakistan, which has been accused of preparing to produce nuclear weapons. As part of the pressures on this state, the U.S. Congress decided last October to cut off its U.S. aid. Yet no measures have been taken so far on Pakistan's proposal to form an international committee—which will include permanent Security Council members the United States, China, and the Soviet Union—to discuss the issue of nuclear disarmament in the region. As is known, India, Pakistan's neighbor, has produced nuclear weapons but still has not been subjected to U.S. threats and pressures.

How can the U.S. position be explained other than that the Zionist lobby's pressure is aimed only at the Arab and Muslim countries? As for the other countries, with Israel at the forefront, they are supported and pampered.

I find nothing to say except: May God forgive you, O Saddam, for what you have done to the Arab nation with your insane, arrogant, and ambitious pursuits.

Morocco

King Hassan Advised by Doctors 'To Take a Break'

LD1807211691 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Excerpt] We begin the newscast with a short communique issued by the Ministry of Royal Palaces, Protocol, and Medals. It says: In view of continuous internal activities lasting for several months, coupled with preoccupations with developments on the international scene, His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, has decided to follow his doctors' advice to take a break. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Somali National Movement Leader Ends Visit

EA1807113091 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Mr. Abdirahman 'Ali, president of the Somali National Movement and head of the Provisional Government in Northern Somalia, has left Khartoum for Somalia after a visit to Sudan, during which discussions on the Somali crisis took place. [passage omitted] Professor 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, minister of culture and information, said agreement had been reached during the discussions on continuing dialogue between northern and southern Somalia. Sudan had also stressed its readiness to contribute to this dialogue until agreement was reached on a formula acceptable to northern and southern Somalia. Prof. 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad added: Sudan will continue the air bridge it set up to deliver food and medicines to northern and southern Somalia. He said five aircraft had so far been dispatched, each carrying 30 tons of medicines and food. There was sorghum, sugar, flour, and medicines still waiting transport to Somalia via the air bridge. Prof. 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad went on to affirm that Sudan would persevere in its efforts to provide relief to its brothers in Somalia until they are able to transcend the current critical stage. Prof. 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad appealed to the international community to expedite the provision of relief to northern and southern Somalia because they needed such relief urgently and today.

Foreign Ministry: Ready To Cooperate With UN

JN1807204791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jul (INA)—A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry issued a statement today, 18 July 1991, about Iraq's cooperation with the special committee set up in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 687/1991 and its chairman, Rolf Ekeus. Following is the statement:

Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the special committee set up in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 687/1991, sent a written message dated 11 July 1991 to Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent delegate to the United Nations, in which he asked that Iraq supply him with facts related to the tasks listed in the resolution. In his message, Ekeus asked that he be supplied with information on Iraq's chemical and biological industry for all purposes. In his message, Ekeus asked for information and statements on research, development, and industrialization in this field.

Concluding his letter, Mr. Ekeus noted that he realized that it would take time to put all the information and statements he had requested together. He said he would appreciate it if Iraq would supply the first information about the numbers and the sites of the installations in question by the end of July.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman added: The Iraqi authorities received Ekeus' letter on 12 July. In keeping with Iraq's full cooperation with the special committee in charge of part of UN Security Council Resolution 687/1991, those concerned began gathering information and statements from various Iraqi institutions. From 12 to 18 July the Iraqi authorities collected important information and incorporated it into a letter and two annexes including many details.

The Foreign Ministry official source said:

On 18 July 1991, Iraq's reply and the two attached annexes were cabled to its permanent representative in New York so that he could deliver them to Mr. Rolf Ekeus, demonstrating good faith and abidance by Iraq's commitment to extend full cooperation to the special committee and the international inspection teams.

The letter to Mr. Ekeus emphasized that Iraq was absolutely ready to answer any other queries he might present. It said that Iraq is prepared to present its answers and explanations at a joint meeting of Iraqi experts and experts of the special committee, through an exchange of letters, or through any arrangement Mr. Ekeus deems proper to facilitate the special committee's work.

Concluding, the Foreign Ministry's source said: The Iraqi authorities have taken pains to work tirelessly to collect the information and statements that Mr. Ekeus requested and to provide him with this information before the end of the month. They have also assured him that they will continue their search in an attempt to obtain additional information they deem significant. They will provide him with this information within the next two weeks.

Nuclear Inspection Team's Activities Detailed

JN1907091191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2050 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jul (INA)—The INA science correspondent has asked a responsible Foreign Ministry source about the activities of the international nuclear inspection team for 18 July, which will be the team's last day because it will leave Baghdad tomorrow. The responsible Foreign Ministry source said:

The international nuclear inspection team carried out a number of important activities on Thursday, including the following:

1. The head of the Iraqi Atomic Energy Agency met with the head of the international nuclear inspection team and a number of the team members at noon on 18 July 1991. He explained to them certain aspects of the Iraqi nuclear program and its objectives. The head of the Iraqi Atomic Energy Agency asked the head of the international team about his assessment of the assurances given to the high-ranking international team by Iraqi officials to facilitate the inspection mission. Team leader Dimitri Perricos asserted his satisfaction and that of the team's members with the quick response and high level of cooperation shown by the Iraqi team during the inspection.

2. The deputy head of the Iraqi Atomic Energy Agency met with the team leader and a number of members. During the meeting, they revised the design calculations and operational results and compared them with more than one method for electromagnetic separators [fasilat] in order to jointly check the resulting quantities. The international team also received a report on the experimental operation of the centrifuge [al-tarid al-markazi] and a table for the various activities of the magnetic extractor [al-tarid al-maghnatisi] which included aspects related to operation and production and the dates.

3. The international team held meetings with a number of Iraqis concerned, who handed the international team recordings of the video films the team was shown yesterday. The international team also received samples of parts of systems relating to the electromagnetic separators and the Iraqi side answered all questions posed by the international team.

4. The international team was also briefed on the quantities of the enriched and the nonirradiated enriched [al-munaddab] uranium which was prepared by the electromagnetic research and development separators at the al-Tuwaythah nuclear site.

5. The international team concluded the inventory of nuclear materials and checked their quantity and type.

Saddam on 'Preoccupation' With Fighting Iraq

JN1807155191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1405 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jul (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has said: We will strengthen the weak, act from a position of strength, and forge ahead. The present and the future belong to the sons of Iraq.

During a meeting with a delegation from Maysan Governorate representing the city of al-'Amarah, capital of the governorate, as well as rural and marshland areas, and comprising men of religion, tribal chieftains, governorate notables, presidents and members of people's councils, and a select group of intellectuals, his excellency the president added: The sword will always remain high of he who relies on the support of the faithful Iraqis. The banner of principles is held before the sword.

His excellency the president went on to say: We should not remain confused by the current state of affairs or remain plagued by any of the current wounds. We should extend bridges and cross them.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn bestowed on the members of the delegation the right to grant immunity from prosecution to anyone who harmed himself or the homeland and thus became accountable before the law. He added: We do not want any Iraqi to remain at large. We want all Iraqis to function legitimately and to be in the middle of the march, not outside of it.

His excellency the president told the Maysan Governorate delegation: We have always looked upon you as people of firm positions and principles. This is what prompted us to say a big "No" to 30 countries or more, a No that is as big as the globe and as deep as the farthest point in history—not only the history of Iraq, but also the history of the whole nation.

The president declared that the sovereignty of 18 million Iraqis over their land, their entitlement to the rights Almighty God has granted to them, and their insistence on their national rights should remain inviolable, as if Iraq had a population equal to that of the most populous country on earth.

His excellency the president added: For one whole year, their sole preoccupation has been to fight Iraq. They are still "on a war footing" with Iraq. All these who call themselves "the big" have nothing to do but to meet to fight Iraq.

[Words indistinct] a few days ago, a UN mission came to the country and visited Dhi Qar. They toured places in the marshland areas. They went to Hawr al-Hammar, taking with them some relief aid, some food. You know that some people need food because of the blockade.

The mission brought foodstuffs to distribute to them, but the residents of Hawr al-Hammar received the mission with songs of praise for their government and leadership and slogans against those who deserve them without being asked to do so [words indistinct] Iraqis. His excellency the president stated that this reflects the nobility of Iraqis who are saying: Let them lift the blockade so that we can live and enjoy the abundant wealth of our country.

Kurdistan Front Leader Hails Saddam Speech

JN1807123791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jul (INA)—Mr. Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, has described President Saddam Husayn's speech on the 23d anniversary of the glorious 17-30 July revolution as historic, embodying the aspirations of all patriotic and honorable Iraqis.

In a statement to INA, Barzani said the speech will reflect positively and constructively on the future of the dialogue, the future of Iraq, Arab-Kurdish brotherhood, and the comprehensive national reconciliation.

Mr. Barzani, who is now leading the delegation of the Kurdistan Front, denied reports promoted by Radio Monte Carlo's correspondent in Tehran that current negotiations between the delegation and the central government are running into trouble. This information is completely false, he said. Mr. Barzani explained that the dialogue with the central government is continuing, is very positive, and will hopefully reach its final stages soon.

Several national dialogue sessions have been held between the central government and the delegation of the Kurdistan Front. It was agreed to continue the dialogue at the sessions.

Kurdistan Front Statement on Irbil Demonstration

NC1807182491 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1717 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Statement issued by the Kurdistan Front on "mass demonstration" in Irbil on 17 July]

[Text] A mass demonstration was staged in the city of Irbil to protest the poor living conditions the popular masses are experiencing due to unemployment, the high cost of living, and a lack of food and medicine. Some extremist elements and quarters exploited the demonstration to serve their purposes, goals, and methods by committing attacks, provocations, looting, and plundering.

The police engaged in suppression and used weapons to disperse the demonstrators, killing or wounding a large number of peaceful citizens.

While supporting the masses' legitimate demands and peaceful demonstrations, we denounce and condemn the subversive elements that exploited this legitimacy to provoke and loot. We also denounce the suppressive methods and the use of arms to which the authority resorted.

O masses of the city of Irbil, our responsibility is to maintain security and stability in the city of Irbil. This can be achieved only through your effective participation in shouldering this responsibility. Any action that is contrary to this historical responsibility constitutes a flagrant violation of the rules and basis of this responsibility that could result in unforeseen grave and harmful consquences.

We call on our people who are struggling for their just goals to abide by the directives of the Kurdistan Front. We also call on the Front's valiant peshmerga formations to exercise self-restraint in such serious circumstances and not enter the cities and population centers with their weapons so as to bar the way to suspect maneuvers by any party. March forward for the sake of peace, stability, freedom, and democracy for all of Iraq and for a real autonomy for Iraqi Kurdistan.

[Signed] The Iraqi Kurdistan Front, 18 July 1991

Memo on 16-17 July U.S. Overflights Sent to UN

JN1807124891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Washington, 18 Jul (INA)—U.S. aircraft have continued to violate Iraqi airspace, engaging in reconnaissance and provocation. In a memorandum to the UN secretary general, Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations said that on 16-17 July, U.S. aircraft carried out 12 sorties in six two-plane formations. The planes flew at a speed of 600-700 km per hour at low and medium altitudes. He noted that the U.S. air activity is centered over Mosul, Dahuk, and northern Irbil.

Arab 'Silence' on U.S. 'Conspiracy' Noted

JN1807135091 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, July 18, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily bitterly criticized the feverish accusation and smear campaign being led by the United States and its allies as part of a well-planned conspiracy aimed at clearing the way for a new military aggression against Iraq. The daily ridiculed in an article published today news reports circulated by the U.S., Zionist and foreign news media which insisted that Iraq was moving ahead with its nuclear program and that it was still hiding nuclear materials in secret sites in the north of Iraq in a way that would threaten peace and security in the region.

It added that no one could ever believe that Iraq, while besieged by its enemies and neighbours and with its limited capabilities, could transfer nuclear materials and huge technical equipment in as few hours as the United States alleged.

The paper wondered at the U.S. stupid attempts to mislead the world public opinion to prepare for a horrible world plot aimed at destroying what was left of Iraq's installations and what had been reconstructed. It denounced the Arab nation's silence towards this conspiracy and wondered if the Arabs would stand and wait for the American military strike.

AL-THAWRAH concluded that the target of this conspiracy was not Iraq alone, but rather the dignity of all Arabs, whether men, women or children and asked if the Arabs would present that dignity in a golden plate for the Americans, Zionist and their followers.

Arab Paper on U.S. 'Contempt' for UN, World

JN1907102491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has denounced the U.S. Administration's conduct and its disdain and contempt for the UN Security Council, international organizations and agencies, and the world community. In an article today, the paper says the U.S. Administration's threat to again bombard Iraq's cities and services and its production and scientific establishments is insolent and shows a disdain and contempt for the UN Security Council, international organizations and agencies, and the world community.

The paper explains that Iraq, as the teams and committees sent by the world organization have testified, has abided by all the resolutions, fulfilled all commitments, and provided all facilities for the teams and committees charged with inspecting nuclear facilities.

The paper points out that the imperialists—whose hands are stained with the blood of the people and who were blinded by arrogance and hatred, which made them deviate from the path of right and justice and pursue the path of evil and vice—have ignored all the facts and evidence confirming the soundness of Iraq's position and its fairness, good intentions, and respect for the UN charters and UN Security Council resolutions.

The paper asserts that Iraq was clear from the start in everything it announced regarding its peaceful nuclear program, out of respect for the nuclear nonproliferation treaty and the agreement regarding the International Atomic Energy Agency's guarantees.

The paper also says the aggression against Iraq is still going on and has not ceased for one moment. Otherwise, the paper adds, how can one explain the unfair media campaign led by the United States against it? Under what clause or paragraph of the UN and Security Council charters does this campaign fall?

The paper concludes by saying that the international community's silence over the U.S. Administration's aggressive conduct and threats will encourage that administration to perpetrate more foolish acts and crimes, not only against the people of Iraq but also against other peoples of the world.

Comparison to Hammadi's 15 July News Conference

JN180713891

Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic on 16 July on page six publishes the 6,000-word "text" of the news conference held by Iraqi Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi on 15 July, published in the Iraq section of the 16 July Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT on page 21. The AL-JUMHURIYAH version has been compared to the referent INA version and found to be identical except for the following fills and clarifications:

page 22, column two, paragraph two, from end of sentence three, AL- JUMHURIYAH reads:...being made now. We cannot provide more than...(clearing queried word)

same paragraph, sentence six, AL-JUMHURIYAH reads:...responded to them, and complied with their demands. When this disparity or difference in explaining these texts cropped up, we responded to them. The important point...(clearing queried and indistinct words)

page 26, column one, penultimate paragraph, from last sentence, AL-JUMHURIYAH reads:...readiness and situation. [new paragraph]

He stressed that the United States wanted to strike Iraq directly after the Iran-Iraq war and sought a cover, reason, or occasion to do so. Therefore, all political efforts to resolve the crisis through diplomatic and political means within the Arab framework were foiled in order to pave the way for war. The United States actually launched the known aggression on Iraq. We cannot omit this factor from our calculations.

He said that the intention and determination for aggression still exists to destroy Iraq and to change and destroy its political system, which adheres to an independent and national policy on foreign and Arab affairs.

On the outcome of the dialogue between the government delegation and the Kurdish parties, the prime minister said the largest part has been achieved; what remains is only a small part. He said: I hope you will bear in mind that a long time has passed since the last time such a dialogue was held. We should also bear in mind the complications involved in the raised issues, especially those caused by the intervention of the United States and its allies in north Iraq.

He added that numerous, broad, and complicated issues were discussed, and that perhaps due to the diverse sides with which the government delegation is talking, the dialogue has lasted longer than we wanted. He did say, however, that it is proceeding positively, and an agreement will be reached soon.

Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi addressed the double standards of the United States and the Western countries in general. He said: The U.S. Government and the Western governments cooperating with it do not answer inquires on this matter because, I believe, they have no answer to this important and serious subject.

The United States tried to overcome this issue when it announced its initiative on resolving the Palestine question and its secretary of state visited the region, which ended in the known result. The objective of this was nothing more than propaganda. He said the U.S. politicians and the Western leaders know very well that their double standards have become very clear vis-a-vis international legitimacy, respecting Security Council resolutions, and implementing justice. They respond or talk about it but do not concern themselves with finding justifications because they have no justification; their justification is very weak on this serious subject.

The prime minister wondered how the world can allow the Security Council to adopt and implement resolutions on Iraq without implementing 147 Security Council resolutions on the Palestine question and without the United Nations carrying out more than 300 General Assembly resolutions on the same issue. He also wondered how this contradiction can be explained, namely the media clamor about Iraqi nuclear weapons while everyone—from East to West—knows that Israel has nuclear weapons of unlimited destruction capability able to destroy all Arab countries. How can Iraq's nuclear weapons be destructive, harmful, and evil, thus necessitating removal and destruction, but not so in Israel? Hence, this issue is very embarrassing for Western politicians so they do not talk about it.

Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi regretted...(supplying indistinct passage)

same page, column one, last paragraph, sentence one, AL-JUMHURIYAH reads:...established on calculations of interests and force. He said when the balance in the international situation becomes weak or vanishes, the singlehanded, hegemonic policy appears. This is a known issue. In our view, this issue constitutes a negative development in international life. This is why we said that the so-called new world order is a step backward and not forward regarding the interests of the Third World countries and...(clearing indistinct words and supplying additional material)

same page, column two, second paragraph, only sentence, AL-JUMHURIYAH reads:'..from aggression against Iraq and the region. (clearing indistinct word)

Shamir Rejects Talk of 'Compromises' With Baker

TA1807152591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] I would like to hope that Syria is interested in peace, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said a short while ago. The prime minister has not yet reviewed President al-Asad's message to President Bush, but he said he would like to read it. The prime minister spoke about Secretary of State Baker's arrival in the region:

[Begin Shamir recording] We are not talking about compromises of any sort. Secretary of State Baker will arrive in Israel on Sunday night. He will probably present to us the positions of all the regional countries he will have visited, and we will discuss all the subjects relating to the peace process. [end recording]

Hopes U.S. Stands by Principles

TA1807191391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] With three days to Secretary Baker's fifth visit to Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said Israel will continue, together with the United States, to look for ways to achieve peace with the Arab countries and coexistence with the Palestinians.

In a speech to the young leadership of the Israeli Bonds, Shamir voiced the hope that the United States would stand fast behind the principles which Israel and the United States both accepted: direct, bilateral, and unfettered negotiations without preconditions and without outside involvement. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] The prime minister said more Arab leaders are talking about peace and negotiations than in the past, but the real test will be whether they will agree to direct negotiations with Israel. As he rejected various kinds of linkage, Shamir seemed to be criticizing not only the Arabs, but also the United States.

[Shamir] It is difficult to understand why abolishing the illegal Arab boycott, which punishes foreign companies that deal with Israel, is linked to this subject of settlement, which belongs to the negotiations on territory and peace, and nothing else.

[Katzenell] That is not a promising setting for a process that is designed to lead us to peace, Shamir said. After the speech, I asked the prime minister if he has seen the contents of Syria's letter to President Bush.

[Shamir] Well, I did not. I did not see it; I would like to see it. It would be important and useful if we know it.

[Katzenell] Shamir voiced the hope that the United States would stand fast behind the principle of direct negotiations without preconditions or outside involvement—an apparent hint that he would not agree to Syria's demand for a UN observer at a regional conference. [end recording]

Peres: Positive Result for U.S. Only Choice

TA1907074891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Telephone interview with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres by Uri Paz; place not given—live]

[Excerpt] [Paz] Good morning, Knesset Member Shim'on Peres, chairman of the Labor Party.

[Peres] A very good morning to you.

[Paz] How do you view the optimistic statements emanating from Damascus at the conclusion of the Baker-al-Asad talks?

[Peres] Although we do not know the full content of the Syrian reply, we do know the full substance of the American attitude. What is already obvious is that the United States welcomes the Syrian stand, trusts it, and is presenting the situation as if it depends solely on the Israeli answer.

[Paz] Judging by reports, the letter to Bush apparently includes—with the emphasis on apparently—a demand for an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Do the Americans share your view on this point?

[Peres] I think that the Americans told the Syrians what they told the Palestinians here and what the U.S. President said in Congress, namely, that the U.S. stand is: territory for peace, a principle from which there is no turning back. The United States supports Resolution 242. I do not think a more specific commitment was required.

By the way, all those bewailing the present U.S.-Syrian negotiations should remember that they invited them. The Likud asked for these negotiations, perhaps on the assumption that nothing would come of them. In my opinion, al-Asad tricked Shamir with his affirmative reply. We are now forced to cope with a very complex situation, both with regard to the territories in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and to the Golan Heights. The Syrian president is obviously not about to come to Israel to watch a theater show.

[Paz] What would you tell Baker?

[Peres] I do not think Israel, which invited this, has any choice but to give a positive reply. Now, it does not matter much whether the UN observer is deaf or dumb or silent or blind, because the United Nations exists and cannot be ignored. Why should the presence of a UN representative without a right of speech at the conference bother us? This is not what will determine the content or outcome of negotiations.

[Paz] Mr. Peres, do you share the assessment that this is a historic and unique opportunity to achieve peace with the Syrians?

[Peres] The truth is that I would have preferred to begin with negotiations with the Jordanians and Palestinians toward a solution of the Palestinian problem and an

improvement of our relations with Jordan. I am somewhat apprehensive about overburdening the negotiating table, which makes it hard for Israel and everybody else. The Likud asked for this, however, and it is now clear that we are faced with two consequences. First of all, we are facing a world that is more united than ever before. The three major elements—the United States, which is the largest; Europe; and the USSR—are unanimous on the Middle East issues and in their expectations from Israel, which they do not bother to conceal. They coordinate their positions and their demands of us. The other result is the awards we were promised and threats we received, which should not be underestimated. The awards are considerable economic space in Europe; massive U.S. aid for the absorption of immigrants; and, possibly, the opening of the Middle East to economic cooperation with Israel. If Israel rejects these, it will be inviting very painful and dangerous isolation. [passage omitted]

Levi Says U.S. Must Adhere to Understandings

Comments Upon Return From UK

TA1907051291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has returned from a brief visit to London. Interviewed at Ben-Gurion Airport, he said he opposes President Mubarak's proposal to include diaspora representatives in the Palestinian delegation. At the airport to meet the foreign minister was our political correspondent Arye Golan:

Good morning. Foreign Minister David Levi rushed from Ben-Gurion Airport to the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem, where he is to meet with Prime Minister Shamir. The prime minister, by the way, has devoted today to meetings with ministers and senior officials in anticipation of the crucial meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker Sunday evening. Foreign Minister Levi told us this morning: We must stand firm on our understandings with the United States; we need not panic. Let us hear him:

[Begin recording, broadcast in progress] [Levi] ....I hope progress has been made. Our eyes are wide open, we remain alert, and we will check every detail to safeguard our interests. This can be done if we stand firm on our interests and demand that the United States adhere to its understandings with us. I hope it will do so. There is no need to speak of pressure or panic. Israel is the leading factor in the peace process; it is our own initiative that is being pursued, and it is Israel that has averted dangers to the process. I hope that by standing firm, we will avert any other danger that may arise.

[Golan] Speaking of dangers, would you include in that category last night's statement by President Mubarak that the Palestinian representation should include delegates from the so-called diaspora and not just from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza?

[Levi] It obviously contravenes our understandings with the United States, and we expect the United States to provide the reply on this point. Are we expected to comply with the wishful thinking of every Arab leader? No way! We have understandings with the United States on these issues and we will insist on their implementation. [end recording]

Discusses Baker-al-Asad Talks

TA1907060091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Uri Paz; place not given—live]

[Text] [Paz] Good morning, Foreign Minister David Levi, and welcome back.

[Levi] Good morning, thank you.

[Paz] A Syrian-American idyll seems to be forming in Damascus. Does it worry Israel?

[Levi] I don't know what you mean by idyll. We have held numerous talks with the United States in a bid to promote the peace process. Israel and the United States have reached firm understandings in many fields and on many issues which until a year ago seemed like an impossible mission. We have to insist that these understandings be implemented.

[Paz] I was referring to understandings between Damascus and Washington.

[Levi] I heard you. Can anyone proclaim that the Americans and Syrians have reached agreements behind our back and that all our understandings with the United States are null and void? I reject that. We will wait for Mr. Baker to come, and then we will find out. For weeks, the Syrians held back their reply, and before that, there had been obstacles and preconditions which Israel rejected categorically. The Americans had promised us not to endorse preconditions. Now we are being told that Syria has abandoned its rejectionist stand and is willing to meet Israel face to face and without preconditions. We need to find out whether this is true. If it is, if there are no preconditions and they are ready to conduct direct negotiations with Israel, we will welcome it. This has always been the goal of our policy.

[Paz] You do not discern an erosion in the American position, in the wake of the U.S. agreements or understandings in Damascus?

[Levi] You yourself are not certain whether there are agreements or understandings. Are we supposed to jeopardize our relations with the United States on the basis of bits and pieces of information? I think not.

[Paz] Information comes in bit and pieces, and we all know that the Syrian reply has not been made public yet. Why is the United States being so secretive and not informing us of the precise content of the reply?

[Levi] This is precisely why we need to wait for a meeting with Mr. Baker: to find out. He said himself that he is traveling to Syria in order to check thoroughly that there are truly no preconditions. Therefore, we should hold our breath for another day or two. There is no cause for all this panic. If Israel sees danger to itself in any of the Syrian stands, it will simply reject them. On the other hand, we must not ignore the positive agreements we have achieved. We need to go on taking action. Israel is not giving in or despairing; it can cope with problems. It has been proven that when Israel stands firm, when it explains its stands and strives for an understanding with the United States, it does quite well.

[Paz] As we are speaking merely on the basis of bits and pieces of information, rumors, and press reports, we cannot ignore columnist William Safire, who writes in THE NEW YORK TIMES that the United States has promised Syria—or, at least, this is what al-Asad understood—that Israel will withdraw from the Golan Heights. Is there such an agreement between Syria and the United States?

[Levi] We know of no such agreement. It would contravene the understandings that there are to be no preconditions and that every issue is up for direct negotiations without preconditions. This is the principle, and we will not determine our policy and approach on the basis of every new press report.

[Paz] Today's press is reporting assessments by senior political echelons, who claim that in view of the fact that Syria's stands on the regional conflict reflect great flexibility toward Israel, Israel now faces a unique, historic opportunity the likes of which it has never had since its establishment. Do you share these assessments?

[Levi] If these assessments have a sound basis, we should rejoice that our travails have not been in vain.

[Paz] How would you describe the atmosphere in Jerusalem on the eve of Baker's visit? Some have described it as an atmosphere of crisis.

[Levi] I hope this description is unfounded, and we will do everything to prevent a crisis in our relations with the United States. Persuasion and frank and open clarification talks will be our guiding lines.

[Paz] Do you think there is a chance Mr. Baker will leave Israel with an agreement for convening a conference?

[Levi] I think that his remarks after his last visit say it all: The issues on which he has achieved agreement with Israel are immeasurably more numerous and important than the issues that remain open. It is in this spirit of self-confidence that we should proceed. We have not abandoned our political goal of promoting the peace process in accordance with stands that safeguard Israeli interests, some of which have been agreed on with the United States. As to the remaining issues requiring more work, we will not despair. With self-confidence and optimism, we will proceed to work toward promoting Israel's interests, at the core of which lies peace under the conditions to which we have always aspired.

[Paz] Foreign Minister David Levi, we thank you very much.

[Levi] All the best and shalom.

Views 'Silent' UN Presence

TA1907110191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by political correspondent Arye Golan on 19 July; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Foreign Minister, if and when you learn from Baker on Sunday that Syria has indeed given a positive reply showing flexibility, will Israel also be ready to be more flexible on the issue of allowing a UN observer at the conference?

[Levi] I am not negotiating with you. We are familiar with UN stands on these issues and with the anti-Israeli resolutions it has endorsed over the years. Its equation of Zionism with racism is a shame and a stain on that organization's record. In view of all this, we are afraid that even a silent UN representative is liable to cause the other side, namely the Arabs, to entertain certain hopes and to believe that the debates can be moved to another arena, which will delay the process. This is the reason Israel has always opposed such a representative.

We will listen to what is said about this representative's role and about the extent to which the United States can prevent the possibility of his presence—albeit silent—causing the other side to create obstructions and to stop progress in the hope that the United Nations will take some action to halt peace.

If, however, it turns out that the Syrian stand has changed; that it has at last embarked on the path of peace; that it has abandoned its rejectionist stand; that it poses no conditions; that it accepts the principle of direct negotiations without preconditions; that nothing is said in contravention of earlier agreements with us; and that the understandings between us and the United States are firm, and the Unites States confirms that this is so—we will gladly welcome it.

Further Reportage on UK Visit

W 11807182291

For reportage on the visit by Foreign Minister David Levi to the United Kingdom, including reports on his talks with Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and leaders of the G-7 nations convened in London, please see the United Kingdom section of the 17 July West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Settlements During Visit 'Counterproductive'

TA190707319l Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Jul 91 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky and Herb Keinon]

[Excerpt] The establishment of another settlement during the upcoming visit of Secretary of State James Baker on Sunday evening would be counterproductive for the government's goals of settling Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza district, Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, said yesterday.

Pazner said: "It is not our policy to set up settlements while Baker is here. These acts of setting up settlements at this time only interfere with our efforts to settle at other times."

Previous Gush Emunim settlement activity timed to coincide with Baker's arrival during four previous visits have led to international media attention depicting Israel as intransigent. It also led the secretary himself to tell the U.S. Congress that there was no larger obstacle than such settlements to peace. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister on Jazzin, Baker-al-Asad Talks

TA190706399l Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Me'ir Einstein; place not given—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Good morning, Defense Minister Arens.

[Arens] Good morning.

[Einstein] Are the reports on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] entry into Jazzin indicative of a plan to enlarge the security zone in southern Lebanon?

[Arens] We have not changed our policy. Lahd and troops subordinate to him control the Jazzin enclave, and IDF troops occasionally patrol the area.

[Einstein] Do you mean there will be no permanent IDF presence in Jazzin?

[Arens] As I have already told you, we have not changed our policy on this issue.

[Einstein] After the clash with a Hizballah squad a few days ago, in which three Giv'ati Brigade soldiers were killed, does Israel intend to change its policy and perhaps intensify the activity north of the security zone, in order to strike at Hizballah?

[Arens] We have always pursued a policy of striking at elements that are organizing to infiltrate into and attack Israel. This policy, too, has not changed. We have been implementing it for many years.

[Einstein] Do we not trust the Lebanese Army to control both Jazzin and Hizballah, just as it has been able to disarm the Palestinians?

[Arens] We do not receive messages from the Lebanese Government, we have no contacts with them, and therefore, I cannot tell you what their plans are. I can only tell you about ours: At a very steep price, we ensured the security of our population in northern Israel. In the nine years since the Peace for Galilee campaign, no civilian has been hurt in our north, and we do not intend to surrender this achievement.

[Einstein] Mr. Arens, an Islamic Jihad statement has indicated that the organization intends to allow a POW exchange with Israel. What is your reaction to this statement?

[Arens] I have no reaction. In our experience—and, unfortunately, we have considerable experience in negotiating the exchange of POW's and MIA's—public statements are not, as a rule, a serious component of the negotiations that eventually bring our boys back home.

[Einstein] Do we know for a fact that the Islamic Jihad is holding our POW's?

[Arens] I cannot tell you that with certainty either, because so far we have not received any signs of life from them, either directly or through mediators. For that reason, I cannot answer your question.

[Einstein] Now to the political issue: After his meeting with President al-Asad, Baker announced that they have agreed on the terms for convening a peace conference. Do you believe Baker will be able to issue a similar statement at the conclusion of his talks in Jerusalem on Sunday?

[Arens, laughing] I am sorry I am unable to answer this question, either. I have just heard on the radio that Mr. Baker complimented us by saying that Israel wants peace no less than Syria; however, we know that the issue revolves around a lengthy letter the Syrians relayed to the United States, and that the Syrians had earlier received clarifications in response to questions they had asked. At this point, we do not know what the letter says or what questions were asked and clarifications provided. Mr. Baker will be here on Sunday, and I assume he will explain things to us. Only after that will we be able to react.

[Einstein] Mr. Arens, are you one of those in Jerusalem who fear that these U.S. clarifications to Syria imply an erosion in earlier agreements between Israel and the United States?

[Arens] With Mr. Baker due to arrive on Sunday, I think it would be unwise on my part to express apprehensions or suspicions on Friday. We have sufficient patience to await his arrival, at which time I presume everything will become clear.

[Einstein] Do you trust the U.S. interpretation that al-Asad's letter is positive?

[Arens] Look, we enjoy very close and very good relations with the Americans, but the issues at stake are so crucial for the State of Israel that I believe we would not

wish to trust the interpretation of anyone, not even of friends; we will trust our own interpretation, which we will form after reading the letter.

[Einstein] Defense Minister Moshe Arens, thank you very much.

[Arens] Good day to you.

Comments on Iraq, Elections

TA1907065691 Tel Aviv YEDIOT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 19 Jul 91 pp 2, 3, 28

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Dan Shilon; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shilon] Sir, what will James Baker be taking with him when he leaves Sunday night?

[Arens] I cannot imagine that he will be taking an agreement acceptable to all the sides which will bring about the encounter he is trying to summon.

[Shilon] That is a very pessimistic statement.

[Arens] I do not believe we will attain an agreement that quickly. I hope I am proven wrong. An additional effort will be required to attain that goal.

[Shilon] The Syrians have given Baker an unconditional "yes." Why should we not say yes as well?

[Arens] We have not yet seen the Syrian reply.

[Shilon] Baker has seen it, and he has confirmed this.

[Arens] That is correct, but he has also said he received a lengthy letter and he has not yet gone over the details. The Israeli Government cannot be expected to make decisions on the basis of quotes provided by another element after an initial perusal. I assume we will get the letter and, after we have read it, we will know where we stand.

[Shilon] We may very well not be given a copy of the letter, and we may have to make decisions on the basis of the U.S. interpretation alone. The Americans are already talking about "a historic moment."

[Arens] I must first read the Syrian letter, and I cannot imagine that the letter will not be relayed to us. The Americans know that it is important for us to know exactly what the Syrians are saying and that our reply largely depends on our understanding of its content.

[Shilon] You are throwing cold water on those who are thrilled by the Syrian response.

[Arens] It is not a matter of cold or hot water. We may also be thrilled after we have read the letter, but not before.

[Shilon] Will Israel agree to the U.S. proposal to have a UN observer accompany the peace conference?

[Arens] During his last visit to Israel, we made it clear to Baker that we object to UN participation in the encounter he is trying to summon, which should be an initial and brief step prior to direct negotiations.

[Shilon] Will this objection, as well as Israel's objection regarding the duration of the conference, remain in effect in the meeting with Baker next Sunday?

[Arens] We have stated time and again that we see the conference as a one-time encounter without UN participation.

[Shilon] Will we evince no flexibility whatsoever in the wake of Syria's positive response?

[Arens] We have already evinced flexibility during the U.S. secretary of state's previous visits, as reflected in our agreement to hold a one-time international encounter to be followed by direct negotiations. We also agreed to have the EC attend the opening session. If we show any additional flexibility, nothing may remain of our original position, which is the correct position to promote the peace process.

[Shilon] You do not really have to read the detailed Syrian letter to know that its agreement is based on the principle of Israel's concession of territory on the Golan Heights in exchange for peace.

[Arens] Such a principle is tantamount to a precondition to negotiations. We do not agree to any precondition to negotiations, certainly not to this one. We will not agree to entrust Israel's security to foreign elements.

[Shilon] What you are saying actually represents an Israeli precondition. We are saying that we will not agree, under any circumstances whatsoever, to cede territories in the Golan Heights.

[Arens] That is not what we are saying. We are saying that we agree to negotiations without any preconditions. We also know that when al-Asad comes to the negotiating table, he will demand Syrian rule over the Golan Heights. He also knows what Israel's answer will be.

[Shilon] That is a "nonstarter" situation. That way, we will never reach any agreement with the Syrians.

[Arens] Not necessarily. We assume that once negotiations are launched, there is a good chance of attaining an accord; however, that is not to say that they will necessarily end in an accord. It may very well turn out that the gaps are too wide, but our assumption is that an accord is attainable. The negotiations with Egypt attest to that.

[Arens] That example shows that no agreement can be made with the Arabs without returning territory.

[Arens] Some people would like to see it that way, but that is not how we see it. With such an approach, we may yet lose the entire State of Israel.

[Shilon] Is the staff of the prime minister's bureau, the foreign minister, and the defense minister doing its homework in anticipation of Baker's visit?

[Arens] By the time Baker arrives, the staff will definitely have done its homework, based on work done over the last few months.

[Shilon] If Israel decides to join Baker's political move and a moratorium on settlement, as the Americans want, remains the only issue in dispute, will we agree to it?

[Arens] The answer is no. Settlement is our right, which was granted international recognition in the Balfour Declaration and the decision of the League of Nations.

[Shilon] At the moment, the Americans are not arguing with us over the right, but over the timing.

[Arens] The timing is part of the principle. Imagine if we were to ask the Americans not to settle in Alaska for a certain period of time. Nobody would agree to that. We will not agree to such a principle.

[Shilon] Even at the cost of risking the U.S. loan guarantees for immigrant absorption?

[Arens] I do not believe the U.S. Administration will punish Soviet immigrants because they disagree with the Israeli Government on one topic or another. President Bush has explicitly said as much. [passage omitted]

[Shilon] Did the United States screw up when it chose to end the Gulf war the way it did?

[Arens] You can use such blunt words in reference to the United States, but I cannot. Sometimes I regret that. Still, I am a minister in the Israeli Government, and I speak for the government. I believe there are quite a few Americans who, in hindsight, would have liked the combat to continue a few more days; but hindsight is the best sight.

[Shilon] Is the Israeli home front ready today for a possible war?

[Arens] We were ready then, and we are ready now. We do not need to implement any special measures or efforts for the eventuality of another war.

[Shilon] If faced again with the threat of Scuds, will the main defensive measures be against a chemical attack this time as well?

[Arens] The chemical threat should not be dismissed. We are talking about a highly unlikely situation, but if it happens, the chemical threat should not be dismissed.

[Shilon] Will Iraq assemble a nuclear bomb?

[Arens] It was very close to it five months ago.

[Shilon] And today?

[Arens] The United States and its allies are engaged in a serious effort to dismantle and remove Iraq's nuclear capability. I do not know how successful they will be. Iraq clearly retained the technology, know-how, and professional experts.

[Shilon] How should they be dealt with?

[Arens] They should be dealt with in a multifaceted way.

[Shilon] Does this include a new military confrontation between the United States and Iraq?

[Arens] That question should be addressed to the United States, but it is clear to me that President Bush is determined to leave Saddam Husayn without any nuclear capability.

[Shilon] Is there full U.S.-Israeli coordination on this issue?

[Arens] There are exchanges of information. [passage omitted]

[Shilon] Can you smell an imminent election campaign in the air?

[Arens] It is not a question of smell, but of the calendar. Elections will be held in November 1992 at the latest, and in April 1992 at the earliest. Unless there are some extraordinary circumstances, the elections should be held as scheduled.

[Shilon] Could the political decisions on the agenda lead to the disbandment of the coalition and necessitate early elections

[Arens] It is not in the national interest today to move the elections up. We are faced with fateful decisions day in and day out, and if we were to call an election each time we had to make such decisions, we would be constantly holding election campaigns.

[Shilon] Will Yitzhaq Shamir lead the Likud again in the next elections?

[Arens] You will have to ask him that.

[Shilon] Do you want him to head the Likud?

[Arens] I do not want to get into personal questions. He is the man we chose to head the government, and he is a good prime minister.

[Shilon] Your answer shows that you are nearing the moment of truth when you will have to decide whether to present your candidacy for the premiership.

[Arens] I do not feel I am nearing the moment of truth.

[Shilon] Thank you.

'Hints' at Change in Opposition to UN Role

TA1907061691 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Jul 91 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Text] Israel may reverse its longstanding opposition to the inclusion of a UN observer in Middle East peace talks, according to hints being made in government circles.

The change, which would be made during meetings with Secretary of State James Baker on Sunday in Jerusalem, would be in return for a U.S. pledge of "no outside interference" in the peace process.

According to the new formula, Israel would accept a "UN presence" as long as it is understood that it would not be "involved" in the deliberations. President Bush promised that the observer would remain silent.

Meanwhile, government officials last night were stunned by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's remarks in Damascus that Palestinians from outside the territories should participate in the conference.

"Mubarak knows full well that the government fell last year over this issue," a senior Foreign Ministry official said. "It was only because Baker promised there would be no such representatives this time around that we've gotten as far as we have."

Levi was to return early this morning from talks in London and is to brief Prime Minister Shamir in preparation for Baker's arrival Sunday.

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 19 July, in a related report on pages 1 and 2 by Hemi Shalev, Dan Avidan, Mikhal Sela', and Drora Perl, adds that "political circles in Jerusalem have accused Secretary of State James Baker of breaking clear commitments given to Israel during earlier stages of the political process. The sources contend that Baker is playing a 'double-edged game' with Israel and Syria and that, furthermore, Baker is not presenting Damascus' real positions accurately."]

Nation Said To Fear Isolation, Seek Guarantees

TA1807113391

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 18 July in a report on page 7 by Tzvi Gilat says that "sources in the Prime Minister's Office have said that they hope Secretary of State Baker will present the text of the Syrian reply to President Bush when he visits Israel. The sources said that, in any event, they will express Israel's concern that Syria's response does not result from a sincere desire for peace. Sources in Prime Minister Shamir's inner circle said that the prime minister will have to be convinced that there is a real desire for peace before he will be willing even to consider additional concessions. What could convince Shamir? Guarantees.

"The Israeli team may propose that the United States get Syria to issue a declaration ending the state of war with Israel and announcing Syria's readiness to begin releasing the 4,000 Syrian Jews.

"At any rate, it is already clear that the procedural aspects of the regional conference will not be the central issues discussed during the meetings with Baker, but rather the composition of the Palestinian delegation. In his reply to Bush, Shamir already noted that Israel will request guarantees that the Palestinian delegation not include representatives who are unacceptable to Israel—in other words, deportees and/or PLO people and/or residents of East Jerusalem—and even if this demand is not repeated during next week's meeting with Baker, it is bound to be raised in the future.

"What will happen if this time the United States does without closer understandings with Israel and shows that it intends to issue invitations to the conference, even without reaching complete agreement in advance? 'It is hard to believe that will happen,' the sources at the Prime Minister Office's opined hopefully. 'After all,' they added, 'the Americans want this thing to succeed more than anyone else.'

"Shamir yesterday asked cabinet ministers to refrain from making any statements, so as not to upset the impending meeting with Baker. The prime minister also declined an invitation to appear on Israel Television's 'Moqed' program and will probably maintain silence until after the meeting with the secretary of state. Any superfluous remarks can only hurt."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 18 July in a report by 'Oded Zaray, 'Aqiva Eldar, and Ori Nir on pages A1 and A4 states that "high-level sources in the Likud have recently called for greater flexibility in Israel's position regarding the UN role and the reconvening of the conference, if the United States guarantees in writing that the peace process will be based on the principle of direct negotiations. The Likud circles feel that the negotiations with the United States should concentrate on the composition of the Palestinian delegation and on Israel's right to decide if it wants to sit down with the Palestinian representatives invited to the conference and the attendant talks."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 18 July in a report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef and Ran Dagoni on pages A1 and A2 adds that "Jerusalem is becoming increasingly fearful that the United States, the Soviet Union, and the Arab countries have agreed on a concerted action designed to isolate Israel. Sources in Jerusalem said that they are especially worried about the inclusion of the PLO in consultations and by the Arab countries' attempt to consolidate a united position."

Bessmertnykh Plans Visit; Praises Syrian Stand

TA1807134891 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Jul 91 p 1

[Report from London by Gid'on Kouts]

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh intends to visit Israel again soon. He said so in an exclusive interview with the DAVAR correspondent in London. Bessmertnykh said that the USSR also had received Syria's reply to the United States and that its

reply was very positive. "I have not yet set the date for my new Middle East tour, but I intend to include Israel in it," Bessmertnykh said.

Asked whether the USSR was aware of Syria's reply and what it thought about it, the Soviet foreign minister said: "We, too, received that response, and we think it is very positive."

Foreign Minister Levi To Visit Cairo 29 Jul

TA180717Z91 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 16:30 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Political sources confirmed this evening in Jerusalem that Foreign Minister David Levi will pay an official visit to Cairo on 29 July. The visit is to last two days. Our political affairs correspondent, Shlomo Ganor, reports that during his visit Mr. Levi will meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and members of the Jewish community in Cairo.

The Egyptian foreign minister had noted today that the talks with Mr. Levi will cover the peace process and bilateral relations. This will be the first visit by an Israeli minister to Cairo for some two years.

Al-Masri Government Wins Vote of Confidence

JN1807112591 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1113 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] The results of the vote of confidence in Tahir al-Masri's government were announced a short while ago. Forty-seven voted for it, 31 against, one abstained, and one was absent. Thus, Tahir al-Masri's government has won the confidence of the House of Representatives.

Prime Minister Comments

JN1907073191 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Following the vote, the prime minister told the "News at Ten" that this government succeeded in convincing parliament that it was different, with a clear and progressive program:

[Begin recording] [Al-Masri] As you can see from the result of the voting, we have succeeded in convincing our colleagues, or the majority of them, that this government is a different government. It is not a very classical and traditional one. We have a very clear and progressive program. We need the support and the backing of everyone, especially the legislative institution—the parliament—to implement such an ambitious program.

[Unidentified reporter] After hearing the MP's asking for several issues, would you change anything in your (?presentation)?

[Al-Masri] I think all of the demands fall within the thinking of the government. Maybe, but in fact sure we will not be able to execute and implement all such programs in a short time. [sentence as heard] Maybe if you want to collect all the ideas and all the plans, that might take years. But we have to begin, and we can do something in the near future and in the coming few months.

[Reporter] Can you tell us the position—the government's position on the Palestinian question?

[Al-Masri] I have made that very clear in my speech, and if we are for a resolution of the Palestinian question based on international legitimacy, we are determined to do everything possible to reach that aim. But we will not give any concessions if it is not based on the acceptance of withdrawal from the occupied territories. And that is very clear, and it is very well known to everyone. [end recording]

Al-Masri's Address to National Assembly Deputies

JN1807150291 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1101 GMT 18 Jul 91

["Full recording" of Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri's reply to statements by deputies concerning the government's policy statement, in Amman on 18 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Mr. Speaker, Esteemed Deputies:

To begin with, I would like to thank all my colleagues for their discussion of the policy statement and for their opinions and ideas, both those who spoke on behalf of their blocs or individually. These discussions were a good contribution on the path of consolidating and deepening the democratic experiment. I would like also to say that I welcome all objective criticism in the course of the discussions because questions and answers, and divergence of views and opinions, are in the nature of democratic practice. Anyone stepping forward to carry the trust of responsibility in any position must be able to conduct dialogue and accept criticism and benefit from others' views.

Mr. Speaker: In my probably brief speech, I will try to answer the question raised, and I hope that my colleagues the deputies will excuse me if I failed to discuss or answer all the questions, not because of dereliction of duty, but perhaps because it is a time-consuming process.

The government statement explained, in detail, the government's plans and policies in all sectors. The government will work in earnest and sincerely to draw up programs to implement its program in accordance with its prime task. The features of the current stage we are going through will remain the entrenching of institutional work, charting a clear methodology for government action, expanding the base of the decisionmaking process, consecrating public liberties, and respecting the rule of law.

Your esteemed House has become a party to the decisionmaking process. Consequently, it has become a party to the responsibility. Many colleagues spoke about martial law. I would like to repeat what I previously said, to the effect that martial law can be considered revoked. Martial courts, as well as the powers of the martial law administrator, have been retracted. The government pledges to you that it will announce a complete and irreversible revocation of martial law once the pertinent draft laws, that the government submitted to your esteemed House, are enacted. The government is determined to see all of us overcome all the effects of martial law, so that we can open a new chapter on the path of entrenching constitutional and civil rights for all citizens, including those convicted for political reasons. The latter's cases will be reviewed shortly to prepare to make a proper decision. Likewise, the Civil Service Commission has also issued the relevant messages reinstating all those dismissed for political reasons at ministries and departments, with the exception of those who choose not to be reinstated for personal reasons. The government will follow up any case proven to be left unaddressed.

Mr. Speaker: I wish to reiterate the government's commitment to its policy on the Palestine question, and on any international or U.S. movement, and Jordan's relationship with the PLO. Jordan's foreign policy, and Jordanian policy toward the Palestine question, is the outcome of long decades of positions, principles, and

policies defined by his majesty the leader of the country, and adopted by several governments. This policy has roots which neither this, nor any other government, can shake off or deviate from.

It is naive to say that the prime minister will clandestinely cloister himself so that he relinquishes all constants and policies all at once. This would be an obvious devaluation of the public intellect. The political moves are public, Jordan's policies are known, and the esteemed House follows events and the conduct of the government in this and other respects.

In its political statement, the government said in a loud and clear voice that Jordan will not relinquish any Palestinian or Arab right, will not accept a unilateral solution, and will not substitute for the PLO. We adhere to the national and pan-Arab constants, which the Jordanian people have paid for in the form of sacrifices and martyrs, and by which successive governments have abided, the latest of which was the previous government in which the Islamic movement and other colleagues in this House have participated.

Let all know that neither the Hashemite leadership nor the cabinet members or any honorable citizen is ready to cede or relinquish. The coming days will reveal and judge things. Your esteemed House knows that this government came into being following the endorsement of the National Charter by the general national congress, as agreed upon by all the Jordanian political forces. The government's policy statement defined a commitment to the letter and spirit of the Constitution, and to the vision and future of the charter. Thus, any talk about abidance by Islamic shari'a is backed by this commitment. Islam is the religion of the state, and the Islamic shari'a is the main source of legislation in the state.

Accordingly, the government is under the obligation to keep all laws and regulations in line with these constants. We will work to remove all that may clash with this commitment. Talk about external circumstances and a new world order determining the course and conduct of the political orientation of the government contrary to its statement, must be based on illusions and perceptions that have no foundation in reality. The credibility of the government's commitments to constants of political action will be judged over time. Things will be obvious to your esteemed House and our generous people.

As for journalism, the government asserts that it respects its freedom and that it is concerned that it enjoy a democratic climate. The government also guarantees free thinking, expression, and opinion. The government hopes that the reference made by certain deputies to the press and journalists will not be construed as an invitation for it to place restrictions on journalism and writers, when the government is working on print and publications legislation to assure the freedom of the press.

As for the references made by the Constitutional Bloc, I am convinced of the need for a commitment to certain stances. If these have to do with me as a candidate for the House of Representatives, and then as a deputy, it must be realized that a policy statement from a government made up of 24 ministers must be an expression of the sum total of the government team's convictions, especially that it includes 10 deputies each of whom had his own campaign manifesto. If the government statement was void of a reference to certain matters, this does not mean these have been disregarded or neglected, but the idea was a disinclination to enter details into a government statement. The government will take the measures needed to implement what is possible and inform the esteemed House of any developments on these matters.

I have striven from the start to make this a government of national coalition, and I will continue to work toward this end. In any case, this government, God willing, will be one for all Jordanians in terms of practice and orientation. It will make a point of consulting with all parliamentary blocs without exception.

I would like to declare from this place that this government is not bent on pursuing a group or side but will, God willing, be a government for everyone and will prove this on all occasions and at all times.

As for the professional and trade unions to which some deputies have alluded, the government's policy, as enunciated in its policy statement, is to entrench democracy, consolidate its concept, and expand its base so it can transcend the borders of party pluralism to effective participation in decisionmaking. Therefore, each sector of the society has the right to have itself represented in the professional associations and trade unions so that these sectors may have effective participation in decisionmaking related to their own problems.

Therefore, the government will refer the teachers union's draft law, which is now with the legal committee, to your esteemed council in the next ordinary session, as well as laws related to other organizations and unions of the agricultural sector, students, and youths.

As for the administrative reform to which some deputies have alluded, the government's policy statement dealt with this issue. As you are aware, the administrative reform was a slogan raised by previous governments and only little progress in dealing with it has been realized. This government hopes it will be able to implement the provisions of its policy statement in this regard. Regrettably, the government is aware of the practical difficulties it will face, especially in ending the factors of weakness and flaccidity in the administrative body resulting from inefficient and unqualified personnel, and the failure to appoint the right man to the right position because of social pressures and the economic situation in the country.

As for the remarks by a number of deputies on certain points that I believe are worth considering, the government will demonstrate the following:

Commitment to enacting up-to-date laws on parties, press and publications, and labor; ensuring the rights of

all trade unions to membership in the trade union federation; amending conditions in the Jordan Valley farmers union, making it a union for all the kingdom's farmers; approving the artists union draft law; and establishing a students' union and a youth union.

The labor draft law will be presented to your esteemed council in its coming ordinary session. A Justice Ministry committee will study these laws to develop and bring them up to date, bringing them into line with the democratic phase which we are living through. This committee will present its proposals to eliminate from the provisions everything that has any martial law connotation.

The government pledges that it will not interfere in the freedom of the trade unions or in the election to unions and organizations. The new labor draft law will stipulate guarantees and enunciate principles that will strengthen the freedom of trade union practice. I would like to assert that this government cares to make the trade union practice free and democratic for all our workers, that it will not tolerate unions placing obstacles to prevent workers from enjoying membership in them. Until the new draft law has been formulated, the government will generally observe everything that is democratic in the matter of trade unions.

The policy of replacing alien workers by Jordanian workers at the beginning of this year had positive results in terms of the Jordanian labor market. Thousands of job opportunities were made available to Jordanians. For the first time, alien workers and employers were made to pay fees on work permits with retroactive effect.

As for social security, and despite the fact that the government respects the independence of institutions and free decisionmaking by their boards of directors according to the provisions of the law, the government would like to explain that specialized committees at the Social Security Institution are now studying health insurance for workers prior to endorsement, in accordance with established procedures. Social security funds will be invested in projects that provide job opportunities for our workers, and also serve the institution.

As for the comments some deputies have made on the plans of the Ministry of Education, higher education, the media, and the identity of education, the policy statement was clear in pointing out that the foundations of the educational process lie in the Constitution, the charter, the education law, the letter of designation, and the recommendations of the first conference on educational development. As for the identity on which education is based, this is a clear, unambiguous matter. Article Two of the Education Law stipulates the following: The philosophy of education in the kingdom stems from the Jordanian Constitution, the Arab Islamic heritage, the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, and the Jordanian national experience. This philosophy is epitomized in the following intellectual principles:

1. Faith in God.

2. Faith in the higher principles of the Arab nation.

3. Islam is a thought and conduct system that respects man, exalts the intellect, and urges learning, working, and good conduct.

4. Islam is an integral thought system that provides sound values and principles that make up the conscience of individuals and groups.

5. The relationship between Islam and Arabism is organic, and the government is committed to this fact.

The financial policy: In its policy statement, the government has clearly explained that promoting self-reliance, and reducing the deficit in the state budget, constitute the pivot of its economic policy.

As for the tax system, the government will seek to develop progressive taxation to ensure social justice and continued healthy economic development. The government will depend in its taxation policies on the following principles:

1. Giving greater weight to imposition of taxes on consumption and avoiding imposing taxes on savings.

2. Granting sufficient tax exemptions so as to encourage investment and exports.

3. Simplifying customs procedures, particularly in relation to imports of raw materials and exports of national goods.

4. Collecting fair fees for the services the government and its institutions provide.

5. Drawing up specific programs to improve methods of collecting fees, and broadening the tax base and limiting tax evasion in all its aspects.

As for foreign indebtedness, no change has occurred in debt figures since the government presented the state budget for 1991, since repayment was rescheduled.

Some deputies demanded hospitals and medical centers for their governorates. The government thinks that these are pressing needs that must be fulfilled. The Health Ministry will begin to build the al-Kurah Hospital, which will accommodate 50 patients and can be expanded, and the al-Rusayfah Hospital, which will accommodate 100 patients and can be expanded. The ministry will also begin working on the infrastructure of the al-Karak Hospital before the end of the year. Furthermore, the ministry will set up a gynecology and obstetrics section at Ma'an Hospital and 18 medical centers in various parts of the kingdom according to priorities, given that the necessary funds have been allocated for this purpose.

As for the request to form a popular committee to set and control prices and to have the Supply Ministry exercise a tight control on prices, as well as to fight exploitation and monopoly, consumer goods prices are subject to the provisions of the supply law through a specialized technical committee formed by the minister for this purpose. The minister sets prices in accordance with the recommendations of this committee. However, in cooperation

with the Jordanian Society for Consumer Protection, the Supply Ministry recently began to name specialists to assist the committee. The Society for Consumer Protection is a popular, voluntary committee, which is primarily concerned with protecting the consumers in terms of the quality of goods and prices and in rationalizing consumption in the direction of moderation and low prices. Thus, this society fulfills the role of the proposed popular committee.

The government will adopt flexible policies in administering state-owned lands that ensure the following:

1. Benefiting from these lands in a way that serves economic development, and giving priority to productive projects which provide job opportunities.

2. Safeguarding tribal rights and distributing government lands to their residents equally.

Within this framework, the government will take the required measures to accelerate the distribution of state lands located within residential areas among the inhabitants of these areas. Special emphasis will be placed on the 'Aqib al-Rusayfah lands with the aim of reclaiming them on appropriate terms and in accordance with the prevailing laws and regulations. The government will also expand the distribution of arable state lands among farmers living in these areas. The government will attach special importance to settling the matter as soon as soon as possible throughout the kingdom, including tribal locations. Surveys will be conducted in villages to identify those who will benefit from such a measure in these villages. A settlement will be declared in each location separately, so as to resolve disputes that might arise later.

The government will consider the demands the deputies made in their speeches on the governorates' needs in agriculture, industry, health, and education. The government will take the appropriate measures to meet the possible demands. It will also study the new demands before laying out plans and programs for these demands in the next budget. In this regard, the government will consider turning the al-Shawbak Agricultural Institute into a university college affiliated with Mu'tah University. The government will consider the establishment of a university college in al-Tafilah affiliated with the same university. The government will work to complete the establishment of a permanent site for Mu'tah University and to provide the requirements it needs. The government will attach importance to the establishment of al-Zarqa' University and the possibility of establishing sports centers in the capitals of some governorates.

As for supporting municipal and village councils, the government will be committed to it within the commitments it declared in its policy statement. The government will continue to show interest in industrial projects in governorates, in supporting agriculture and farmers, and in establishing dams and health centers in various parts of the kingdom. In this regard, the esteemed deputies must be reminded that we are still working within this year's budget, which specifies various activities and the funds allocated for each of them.

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation will make the required arrangements to finalize, as soon as possible, citizens' applications for agricultural and residential units and collateral services. The ministry will detect any violations in the distribution of these units, and will take the required measures to rectify matters. The government is committed to looking for a final solution to the issue of farmers' debts. The ministry will cooperate fully and positively with this sector and with the agricultural committee in your esteemed House, in light of the committee's recommendations in this regard.

Regarding administration divisions and the request to set up some administrative units and upgrade others, an Interior Ministry committee is now studying an amendedment of the prevailing administrative divisions system. Requests in this regard will be viewed from a comprehensive perspective, taking into consideration all factors which constitute the basis of the subject.

As for Amman Municipality, the government will discuss this issue during the remaining municipal committee's term to select the best approach for managing indebtedness and the councils affiliated with the municipality, including the election of members of the councils that make up the municipality.

Mr. Speaker, I, personally, as well as members of the government, have been abused and insulted by some our colleagues the deputies. Fabrications have been used against us. The aim and goal of such fabrications is known. I have prepared a detailed and full response to these fabrications. However, because it seems intrigues are being prepared for this steadfast country, because I realize the circumstances and seriousness of the current stage and the heavy responsibility and duty, and to avoid peripheral issues that take us away from the basic goal, I will not respond to what has been said [applause], hoping that the sessions of the esteemed House will be permeated by a spirit of amity and concentration on our national issues and that fabrications and slander will be avoided.

Mr. Speaker, Honorable Deputies, this government does not claim perfection, neither for itself nor its members. However, it asserts to you that the government, collectively or individually, will remain committed to a distinguished performance and good results. The government avers that it will not remain idle in the face of developments and changes. It will try to maintain the confidence of those who will grant it confidence and the satisfaction of the beloved people. It declares adherence to national unity and cooperation with all blocs in your esteemed House. It will be open and devoted to the people, deriving resolve from faith in God Almighty and the honor of the task it is entrusted with in the current phase of the history of beloved Jordan. May God grant us and you success for the benefit of the nation and homeland under its beloved leader. Peace and blessings of God be upon you. [applause]

AL-RA'Y Links Baker's Tour, Threats to Iraq

JN1807085391 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 18 Jul 91 pp 1, 24

[Unattributed editorial: "A Return to the Series of Shuttle Tours"]

[Text] James Baker will resume his shuttle tours of the region today. He is to arrive in Damascus following Washington's receipt of a positive Syrian response to President Bush's proposals on activating the peace process. It is noted that the Israeli officials responded to this reply by reaffirming their determination to continue building settlements in the occupied territories. It is also noted that the same tour, in which Baker will also visit Cairo, Amman, Riyadh, and Tel Aviv, is taking place at a time when there are clear U.S. intentions to launch a new aggression on Iraq, under the pretext of not cooperating with the international observers dispatched to Iraq to make sure that it has abandoned its nuclear programs!!

In principle, it seems very odd that while Washington is embarking on efforts, through Baker, to nudge the peace process forward, it is making preparations, instigations, and threats against Iraq, albeit peace in the region is inseparable and, although such practices are in themselves an entrenchment of the double-standard policy with which Washington is dealing with the Arabs and Israel. An example of this policy is the U.S. disregard of Israeli nuclear programs, which Israel has refused to submit to any international inspection, and U.S. insistence on divesting Iraq of any nuclear program, even if it is for peaceful purposes!!

It should be noted that Baker's tour should not divert attention from the dangers facing Iraq, especially since the U.S. "peace tone" became louder shortly before the Gulf war. It is rising again, accompanied by new threats against Iraq. Moreover, it should be noted that any attempt to use this tour or other similar shuttle tours as a cover for aggression on Iraq will inevitably deal a strong blow to the peace process and will cause wholesale despair in the region.

On the other hand, it should also be noted that Baker's tour requires comprehensive Arab coordination. Limited coordination is not enough, especially since no clues are available so far on the way the U.S. secretary of state will deal with the Israeli intransigence, which has increased since Syria's acceptance of Bush's proposals!!

A comprehenisve Arab coordination will ensure that no Arab country is singled out, and that the Palestinian question is not isolated from pan-Arab responsibility, which is shouldered by all Arabs.

However, optismism or pessimism over what Baker is bringing does not matter. What matters is Arab performance and the ability to make others respect Arab rights.

Baker Tour Said 'Serious Test' of U.S. Resolve

JN1807144691 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Jul 91 pp 1, 18

[Unattributed editorial: "America Facing a New Test"]

[Text] With the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Damascus today, on a fifth visit to the region since the end of the Gulf war, the U.S.-led diplomatic process will have broken out of the stalemate which has prevailed for the past few weeks.

Baker's new tour follows Syria's positive reply to President George Bush's proposals, thus putting the peace process in the Middle East to a new practical test, especially since the Arab side has done its best to promote the peace efforts in the region. In light of the declared Israeli rejection of peace and the hardline stances, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has reiterated on the eve of Baker's arrival in the region, that this tour will be a serious test of U.S. resolve to overcome the last obstacles preventing the convocation of an international peace conference.

There is no doubt that the latest obstacles to the advancement of peace efforts lie in Israel's rejection of the U.S. proposals pertaining to the conditions for a peace conference, including the mechanism of the conference, its sessions, Palestinian representation, and UN sponsorship of the conference. Therefore, we will view the way James Baker deals with the current Israeli position as a practical yardstick by which we can judge the truthfulness of the United States, and the seriousness of its commitment to the realization of a just and comprehensive peace in the region, based on the principles of international legitimacy whose banner the Americans are raising high at this stage.

Hence, the United States, while exposing its prestige to a new test, has no other alternative but to take the position that it has to take if it wants to see a positive conclusion to its diplomatic efforts in the region. By this, we mean employing enough political and economic pressure on Israel to abandon its rejection and procrastination. Otherwise, the United States will have lost a ready opportunity to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region, and maintained all factors of tension and violence in the Middle East. This will perpetuate a state of instability that will affect the interests of the countries of the Middle East and the entire international community.

Al-Majid Says Arab Nation To Weather 'Crises'

JN1807180191 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1525 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Amman, 18 Jul (PETRA)—Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid says he is looking forward to hearing the opinions and advice of His Majesty King Husayn regarding the Arab-Israeli dispute, the Palestine question, and a streamlined Arab League to clear the Arab atmosphere and nurse Arab wounds.

Interviewed by the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, 'Abd-al-Majid thanked His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, and the foreign minister, for endorsing him as League secretary general. He stressed that his overriding priorities are to restore trust in intra-Arab relations, consolidate Arab solidarity, and develop the League within the limits of its charter and other Arab covenants.

The Palestinian people's issue is the central Arab preoccupation. The Arab world will know no stability or security before a fair settlement is reached for this issue based on resolutions of international Arab legitimacy [as received] and the right of the Palestinians to exercise their national rights. He noted that the League plans to mount a campaign to mobilize world public opinion for the Palestinian cause and the implementation of international legitimacy.

Our foremost duty to the Palestinian people is to help them hold their ground against Israeli occupation, 'Abd-al-Majid added.

The Arab League is less of a regional organization than a pan- Arab message, and the group has proved irreplaceable and the ultimate resort of the Arab nation. He emphasized that deepening wounds can only do violence to Arab interests.

The Arab League secretary general said that the Arab nation was sure to weather its stumbles and crises.

Jihad on 'Serious Consequences' for U.S. Hostages

NC1807165291 Paris AFP in English 1650 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Beirut, July 18 (AFP)—A shadowy Muslim fundamentalist organization holding two U.S. hostages threatened "serious consequences" if German authorities failed to act quickly to save the "life and free" the Hamadi brothers, two terrorists sentenced in Germany on Wednesday. In a statement sent Thursday to a Western news agency in Beirut, the Islamic Jihad, making its first appearance in 20 months, said: "The pursuit of attacks against our imprisoned brothers will have very serious consequences, and it is necessary to work quickly to save their lives and their safety and free them immediately."

More on Islamic Jihad Statement

NC1807183191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Organization in Lebanon has issued a statement warning of grave consequences unless two of the Lebanese Shiites who are held in Germany, the brothers Hammadi, are well-treated and freed. The organization accompanied its statement with a photograph of U.S. hostage Terry Anderson. The statement said if Germany were to follow U.S. and Jewish policies, it would be subjected to serious losses. The statement accused the United States of obstructing all attempts to free Western hostages through its policy of avoiding all issues linked to that matter.

Israelis Deploy Opposite Hizballah Positions

NC1807175591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Excerpts] According to security sources in the south, an Israeli vehicle force of 120 troops took position this afternoon in the northern part of the security strip. The Israeli force passed through al-Mtullah and headed east. It then deployed on hills overlooking Hizballah's positions in southern al-Biqa'. [passage omitted]

Well informed sources today told our radio correspondent that the 96th Battalion of the Lebanese Army, stationed in Jazzin, has begun evacuating some of its positions, following a warning by the South Lebanese Army [SLA]. The Lebanese Army has so far vacated two of its positions in Rum and Buslayya. Major Niqula Mizhir, commander of the 96th Battalion, was personally notified of the need to evacuate the area. There also are reports of inhabitants of the same area receiving orders to leave.

The 96th Battalion has been stationed in Jazzin since 1986. It is under the command of the Lebanese Army, as Defense Minister Michel al-Murr has said repeatedly. [passage omitted]

SLA Commander Major General Antoine Lahd has made conditions for his withdrawal from Jazzin: one is that security be guaranteed in the area, and the other is that a Lebanese Government strong enough to impose its control all over the country be formed. Maj. Gen. Lahd said: If the extension of the state's authority merely aims at justifying Syrian control over a larger part of the country, it is unacceptable.

Israelis Patrol Jazzin

NC1807185291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Our correspondent in the south says that the Israeli Army is running frequent patrols in the Jazzin area, particularly in the parts where the South Lebanese Army is deployed. Our correspondent adds that the reports received during the day that the Lebanese Army's 96th Brigade evacuated its positions in the area were inaccurate. The correspondent reports that Israeli troops have not come near the Lebanese Army positions in the area and that no contact was made between the two sides.

'Huge Armored Force' in South

NC1907074291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Lebanon has lodged a complaint against the recent Israeli attacks with the UN Security Council. Meanwhile, Ambassador Khalil Makkawi, Lebanon's permanent representative to the United Nations, requested that the United Nations renew the UN forces' mandate in the south for six months.

According to reports from the south, Israeli military movements have been sighted in the border strip, particularly on the road linking Marj 'Uyun with Western al-Biqa', al-'Ayshiyah, Kafr Huna, and Jazzin. The reports added that Israel has dispatched a huge armored force to the occupied areas. It has been deployed along the combat lines of the al-Sharqiyah-Kawkaba-Hasbayya front and the al-'Ayshiyah-Kafr Huna-Sarira front.

Minister al-Amin Rules Out Agreement With PLO

JN1807140891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Doha, 18 Jul (WAKH)—'Abdallah al-Amin, Lebanese minister of state and head of the committee in contact with Palestinian organizations in Lebanon, has absolutely ruled out a new agreement with the PLO to organize the Palestinian presence in Lebanon.

In an interview with Qatar's AL-RAYAH published today, al-Amin said that the Palestinians are staying in Lebanon on a temporary basis, and the Lebanese Government is responsible for their protection and for guaranteeing their freedom of work and speech.

He also stressed that the recent clashes in Sidon between the Lebanese and the Palestinians will not affect the future relations between the two people. He described the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the south as a

victory for the Palestinian question and as a pan-Arab decision that serves Arab interests to the utmost.

The minister said that his country's government rejected a proposal by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to transform the Palestinians into a brigade affiliated with the Lebanese Army.

'Abdallah al-Amin called on the United States to fulfill its promises to the Lebanese Government and force Israel to withdraw from the south. He also said that if diplomatic efforts, which will be given ample opportunity, fail, they will resist the Israeli occupation forces and expand the resistance. The presence of occupation forces on our land is a fateful issue in our lives which we shall never accept.

Lebanese Forces Deny Overseas Offices Closed

NC1907092091 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Forces Information Department; date, place not given]

[Text] AFP has reported that the Lebanese Forces has decided to close down four of its five overseas offices effective June 1991 for financial and political reasons.

To explain the facts, we state:

1. The Lebanese Forces has not closed down its offices abroad but has reorganized their structure to better suit the nature of their work in light of new political developments. This is part of a new program of political action which seeks to serve the Lebanese Forces' goals and the Lebanese cause when dealing with the outside world.

2. Certain administrative and organizational changes have been made among some officials who were charged with supervising these offices and their tasks. These changes were supposed to have taken place two years ago, but were postponed due to the events in Lebanon at that time.

3. Contrary to the AFP report, the Lebanese Forces is preparing to open new offices in every country that has a Lebanese community to strengthen ties with these communities. These offices will open soon according to a fixed timetable.

4. The Lebanon News leaflet that the Lebanese Forces office publishes in Washington has not and will not cease publication; in fact, it will be accompanied by another informational leaflet in English which will be published soon.

The Lebanese Forces Information Department requests all information media organs to contact it before publishing anything on the Lebanese Forces to avoid mistakes and inaccurate reports.

Nabih Birri on Talks with Fahd, al-Ta'if Accord

PM1807134491 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 19 Jul 91 p 19

[Unattributed interview with Nabih Birri, minister of state and leader of the Lebanese Amal Movement, in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [AL-HAWADITH] What can you tell us about your meeting with King Fahd? Was there a meeting with him?
[Birri] A meeting did take place and contacts were made with all officials. We told his majesty the king that the most precious thing—regardless of the the aid provided by Saudi Arabia to the aid fund—is implementing Resolution 425. No one is better equipped than you to press the Americans to put pressure on Israel for the sake of implementation, especially since what has happened in Iraq will have no justification if Resolution 425 is not implemented. We received an unusual degree of attention, to the extent that his majesty told me, in front of everyone, while shaking hands: "I would like to go to Lebanon, since it is a country which I love very much." [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] In your view, will al-Ta'if be realized in full?
[Birri] The al-Ta'if agreement is indivisible because it was not imposed by one group against another. I have said this repeatedly in the past. If any clause of the al-Ta'if agreement is not implemented, the entire al-Ta'if agreement will collapse. I also said that if South Lebanon is going to pay the price for the crisis, the situation in the country as a whole will collapse once again. So there is no option but to implement the al-Ta'if agreement in full. This is what I told his majesty the king and Saudi officials. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] Is there a Saudi desire to unite the Arab position after the fragmentation and ruin that it has suffered as a result of the Gulf war?
[Birri] The Iraqi issue still preoccupies Saudi officials. Saddam Husayn's crime is like a tremor or earthquake. I believe that the Arabs still have a long way to go before they can reach the coordination stage.

[AL-HAWADITH] How do you view harmony between the rulers and cabinet members in Lebanon?
[Birri] Harmony is not necessary. It is not necessary for our views to coincide except for the sake of higher national interests.

[AL-HAWADITH] Has the government achieved what is required of it?
[Birri] This government is the best government Lebanon has had since 1943. It is a true government of independence. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] Do you believe that the the situation is moving toward stability in the southern region after the Army's deployment in Sidon?

[Birri] Yes. We should benefit from the new situation after the implementation of Resolution 425. UN Assistant Secretary General Marrack Goulding will come to Lebanon on 29 July, and Lebanon must benefit from this new situation, not to automatically renew the international emergency forces' presence, but to demand the implementation of Resolution 425. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] It is said that you are launching an organized war to eradicate traditional Shiite leaders and their political families through your stance on parliamentary, administrative, and diplomatic appointments.

[Birri] I do not deny the charge, but claim it as an honor. [passage omitted]

Baker Visit to Damascus, Official Meetings Noted

Met by al-Shar' Upon Arrival

JN1807142491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his spouse arrived in Damascus at 1600 on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his spouse, the chiefs of America and Protocol Departments at the Foreign Ministry, and the U.S. Ambassador in Damascus and his wife.

Holds Discussions With al-Asad

JN1807173891 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at 1800 today. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and U.S. Ambassador to Syria Edward Djerejian.

Continued Contacts Agreed Upon

JN1807205091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at 1800 today.

The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Edward Djerejian.

Discussions revolved around the peace process in the region. Mr. Baker conveyed to the president the greetings of President George Bush and his appreciation for the president's answer to his message on a peace conference and for the positive response, which boosts the cause of peace. The president accepted greetings with thanks, and asked him to convey similar greetings.

They reviewed the points listed in President Bush's letter and in the president's reply. They agreed that the overall points included in President Bush's letter constitute an adequate basis for the convocation of a peace conference and the achievement of a just, comprehensive peace on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

They agreed that the two sides would continue contacts.

Al-Shar'-Baker News Conference

JN1907062891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Last night, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker held a press conference attended by international and Arab media correspondents, the journalists accompanying Mr. Baker, and Syrian journalists in Syria.

At the beginning of the conference, Mr. Baker said: I would like to start by saying that I have held a very good meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, and my colleague, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. It is very clear to me that Syria has made a very important decision. As a result of this meeting, I am pleased to tell you that Syria has agreed to the proposals which we have made, including the attendance at a peace conference based on a point of reference to achieve a comprehensive settlement on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338. I believe this was an extraordinarily important and positive step. It provides something for us to work with. We will try to build on it in our efforts to activate the peace process.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' then spoke. He said: I agree with Mr. Baker. The meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad was good. There was no difficulty in reaching agreement on the content of President Bush's letter to President al-Asad, and also on President Hafiz al-Asad's positive response to the U.S. proposals—proposals that are based on Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principles of international legitimacy.

Asked about the UN role, as reported by the Syrian press, quoting President Hafiz al-Asad, Mr. Baker said: We agree on what has been reported. There are a number of factors relating to the United Nations, the most important of which may be what I have just said: namely, the point of reference for the conference and the negotiations that will follow. This will reflect in any invitation to attend the conference that aims at searching for a comprehensive settlement based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338. Additionally, as you know, an observer from the United Nations will be present, and a representative for the UN secretary general may also attend.

Asked if the UN role will be that of a participant, Mr. Baker said: The UN representative will be an observer. Within that context, the observer—in his capacity as a representative of the UN secretary general—can take notes and contact the participants and those who participate in that conference. Those were the proposals which we made, and those are the proposals which President al-Asad has agreed to.

Responding to a question, Mr. Baker said: All parties have agreed that the point of reference should be Resolutions 242 and 338. These parties will have different interpretations of those resolutions and what they require. The progress of negotiations will give us the answer to what these resolutions in particular require.

Asked if the United States has given any secret guarantees to Syria, Mr. Baker said: Since the beginning of my efforts for peace in the Middle East, I have made it clear that no party will be given guarantees which the other parties do not know about. The path we have followed in our vital efforts is the same path we are following now. We will not give any secret guarantees which the other parties do not know about. Regarding the Golan Heights, you know the U.S. political position on the Golan. We have not recognized Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights.

Asked about Syria's concept of the UN role in the peace conference, Mr. al-Shar' said: I would like to refer to what President al-Asad said the day before yesterday, during the press conference he held with President Husni Mubarak: that the elements that constitute a role for the United Nations also constitute the important role which we want for the United Nations. In other words, we can say there is a package of factors which would give a useful role to the United Nations and a basis for international legitimacy. Therefore, we are satisfied with the content of President Bush's letter to President Hafiz al-Asad.

Asked whether the role of observer will allow the United Nations to participate in the negotiations, Mr. al-Shar' said: As I told you, the presence of the United Nations at the peace conference will not only be manifested in the attendance of a UN observer. This presence will actually be reflected in a number of factors, foremost being that UN Resolutions 242 and 338 are the basis of the negotiations. Also, the United States and the Soviet Union will keep the UN secretary general informed of the proceedings of the peace process from beginning to end. There is understanding for a point in President Bush's letter that the agreements reached will be deposited at the United Nations and then approved by the Security Council.

Asked whether Israel will, or should be interested in his talks with the Syrians, Mr. Baker said: I very much hope so. I believe that our proposals are good and rational. As you all know, Israel had some problems about some aspects. I, therefore, cannot make an early judgment about what its past [as heard] reactions will be. Starting now, and until I meet with the Israeli officials, I will hold a number of meetings in other Arab capitals. I am looking forward to learning their reactions. Mr. Baker added: As I said at the beginning, we admit that there are several obstacles we have to overcome. I am sure that the Syrian foreign minister will not disagree. We will continue to work in this direction, hoping to push this process forward.

At this point, Mr. al-Shar' said: I remember that I said, in our latest press conference here, that Secretary Baker found no obstacles in Syria concerning the peace conference, and that the obstacles were placed by Israel. I remember that he, then, did not agree with me, but now he may not interrupt me as he did at that conference.

At this point Mr. Baker commented: I hope I will continue to disagree with you. This is what I am looking forward to.

Asked whether the Moscow summit will extend the invitation for the conference, Mr. Baker said: I believe, and I am sure, that Presidents Bush and Gorbachev will talk about the efforts made by the United States, the Soviet Union, and many other countries to create a peace process in the Middle East, which urgently needs it. Whether invitations will be extended or not, I think that this depends very much on the results in the other capitals we are going to visit.

Asked whether the conference will reconvene, Mr. al-Shar' said: Our interpretation is that the conference will not actually end its work before achieving its objectives, namely, peace. The conference can suspend its general sessions, but it will not end its proceedings until it achieves its objective or the purpose of its convocation.

For his part, Mr. Baker commented that it is possible to reconvene the conference with the consent of all the main parties, but not including the Gulf Cooperation Council states, for instance, which will assume the role of observer.

Mr. al-Shar' intervened by saying: What concerns us is that the United States and the Soviet Union become the driving force behind the peace process, as President Bush pledged in his letter to President al-Asad. Achieving peace is of interest to Syria and to all those concerned about peace in the region.

Asked about the next step after the positive Syrian response, Mr. Baker said: I would like to remind you of what I said at the beginning: namely, that the positive Syrian response is a source of optimism. We will build on it to launch a peace process in the region and obtain similar acceptances from the other concerned parties.

Asked about the U.S. position on Shamir, who plans to hinder these efforts, Mr. Baker said: I hope that I will get from the other sides a similar position to Syria's positive response concerning the peace process.

Baker Departs Damascus

JN1907114891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his wife left Damascus at 1300 today, at the conclusion of a two-day visit to Syria. They were seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his wife, heads of the Foreign Ministry's U.S. and Protocol departments, and the U.S. ambassador to Damascus and his wife.

Daily: Nation's Peace Stance Removes 'Ambiguity'

JN1907080391 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Strategic Principle in Our Concept of Peace," AL-BA'TH says: Israel alone is responsible for the obstruction of peace efforts. The big powers are responsible for defending peace and security through their responsibility for the most supreme world executive body. Our concept of peace does not depart from the strategic principle which President al-Asad has affirmed in his press conference. Every inch of Arab land is a principal element, and our commitment to the Palestine question is self-evident. What we are seeking is a comprehensive peace that would put an end to hegemony, aggression, and the usurpation of the rights of others. This concept does not depart from the framework

which the world has set through the international resolutions and recommendations. This makes the Arabs' commitment to the international conference a commitment to the legitimacy which the United Nations approved and embodied in its charter and basic principles. Out of our concept in this steadfast and principled Arab country of the requirements and elements of peace, consultations between Syria and Egypt took place. The Damascus summit came to crown these consultations.

AL-BA'TH notes that the Arab acceptance of the peace conference was not a precedent or new development, as some people have tried to show. The concept of a peace conference, as leader al-Asad has said, has existed for some time, and the fact that it was frozen because of Israeli intransigence and the world's negligence toward this intransigence does not mean the end of the conference.

Under the headline "Positivity and Principles," the newspaper AL- THAWRAH says: All Zionist deception campaigns have failed to cover the facts which became very clear through the intensive contacts, consultations, and meetings that have taken place to boost the peace process. The world no longer views the crisis in the region from the Zionist propagandistic perspective, and no longer deals with the crisis according to the deceptive Zionist propagandistic language. The world has dealt with the crisis closely, studied its aspects, and became acquainted with its explosive elements. Its details are no longer confined to the Zionist viewpoint, which has distanced the international public opinion from the facts, the crux of the crisis, and the nature of solution. The positive Syrian position on the peace process has removed any ambiguity from the mind of the world—a mind that has always dealt with Israel as an innocent lamb—and exposed Israel's intransigent position, which rejects the real, just, and comprehensive peace and its expansionist policy as one of the most important explosive elements in the region.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that Syria, which has courageously made its viewpoint clear since it accepted the U.S. initiative, and the positive and balanced basis on which it is founded, has confirmed its desire for a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace. Syria has also dealt positively with all international efforts to launch the peace process on specific bases stipulated by the principles of international legitimacy and the UN resolutions, at head of which are Resolutions 242 and 338.

Jordan's Husayn Phones al-Asad on Peace Efforts

JN1807205791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call from His Majesty King Husayn of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan today. During the telephone conversation, they discussed some political moves under way in the region.

Afghanistan

Rebels Capture Two American Aid Workers

BK1807140591 Hong Kong AFP in English 1242 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Islamabad, July 18 (AFP)—Two Americans working for a British Aid organization are being held against their will by rebels in Afghanistan, Western and Afghan sources said Thursday.

The pair were abducted July 7 in the southeastern province of Ghazni by two commanders from ethnic Hazari groups with links with Afghan resistance factions, Afghan sources said.

Western sources said they worked for a British group, Global Partnership.

A spokesman for the Afghan resistance blamed the Soviet KGB and Kabul's secret services for the abductions, saying it was part of a campaign to "tarnish the image of the Mojahedin." The U.S. Embassy refused to release the identities of the two men, confirming only that they were missing.

News of the Americans' detention followed the release Wednesday of French aid worker Xavier Bouan, who was detained for 12 days in the southeastern Afghan province of Zabol by a fundamentalist rebel group.

Mr. Bouan, 30, arrived Wednesday in Quetta, the capital of Pakistan's Baluchistan province. He had been sent on an agricultural project to southern Afghanistan by Development Alternative Inc., a U.S. Organization.

According to Western sources, the two Americans were working for World Partnership, described by the British Embassy here as a "small" non-governmental organisation.

(Aid groups in London said Global Partnership was involved chiefly in development and environmental projects.)

One diplomat said the U.S. Embassy's reluctance to comment was to safeguard the welfare of its nationals. The United States has formally banned its citizens from travelling to Afghanistan since the start of the civil war 12 years ago.

The incidents underline the growing danger for Westerners in Afghanistan, where fighting between the government and resistance groups has intensified recently.

The International Red Cross (ICRC) announced Wednesday it was suspending its humanitarian operations in the eastern region of Herat and the northern area of Mazar-i-sharif.

"Some unsophisticated Mojahedin are being used by the KGB and KHAD (Kabul's secret service) to commit acts of looting and abduction which are thoroughly regrettable," said Najibullah Lafraie, information minister for the Afghan resistance government- in-exile based in Peshawar.

The ploy was designed to sully the image of the resistance which "appreciates Western aid," he said.

He rejected suggestions that some fundamentalists groups were responsible for the incidents because Washington, after offering support for almost 10 years, had distanced itself from them since the end of the Gulf war.

Mujahidin Said To Shoot Down Aircraft

BK1907082691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have launched attacks on Kabul regime troops in different areas. Mujahidin shot down an army aircraft which was bombing [word indistinct] in Lowgar Province. All the crew members of the aircraft were reportedly killed.

Golboddin Orders Attacks Against Arabs

LD1807185991 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Two Arab subjects were attacked by men attached to the Golboddin extremist group on 14 July in Kapisa province. One of the Arabs was killed and the other was seriously injured.

BAKHTAR's military section reports that following an instruction issued by Golboddin on the expulsion from Afghanistan of Arab subjects who operate within the armed groups, all Golboddin's ringleaders in various provinces of the country have taken measures to eliminate Arab subjects. The assassination and injury of two Arabs in Kapisa was set up by Farid, the ringleader of the Golboddin group in this province.

India

Satellite Airlifted to USSR for Launch in Aug

BK1807164891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] India's second operational remote sensing satellite, IRS-1B, was airlifted today from Bangalore to the Baykonour cosmodrome in the Soviet Union. The space aircraft has undergone all important electrical and environmental tests after integration at the ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] satellite center in Bangalore. The satellite is scheduled for launch on board the Soviet launcher Vostok in August this year.

Minister Decries 'Terrorist' Killing in Province

BK1907095291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has described as unfortunate the reported killing in Uttar Pradesh of Sikh pilgrims who were alleged to be terrorists. He told the Rajya Sabha that even if they were terrorists, nobody had the right to shoot them. He said he

has taken note of the matter and will write to the state government. A BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] member, however, reacted to the home minister's statement saying that it amounts to an allegation against the Uttar Pradesh Government.

Earlier, the matter was raised by Mr. Jagjit Singh Arora, Akali Dal. He said that he was arrested while coming to Parliament House with a procession of Sikhs to express concern over the incident.

Ten 'Militants,' Seven Others Killed in Punjab

BK1807163291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] In Punjab, 10 militants and two policemen are among 17 persons killed, while a child was rescued from the kidnappers by the police in separate incidents since yesterday. According to an official spokesman, the police in a swift action rescued a four-year old son of any Army jawan [soldier] kidnapped by militants from a village in Amritsar District. In a rare act of bravery, the people of a village in Patiala beat to death two militants who demanded 300,000 rupees from a resident of the village.

'Principal Collaborator' in Gandhi Case Held

BK1807163491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] The Special Investigation Team [SIT] probing the assassination of former prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, has said that one Shanmugam alias Jayarajan arrested yesterday is the principal collaborator of the accused Sivarasan and Subha. In a press release in Madras today, the SIT said that Shanmugam hosted a reception at Vedaranyam, a coastal town of Tamil Nadu, when the accused Sivarasan, Subha, and Dhanu landed from Jaffna before the assassination.

Soviet Engineer's Headless Body Believed Found

BK1907034491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] In Assam, a headless body was recovered last night from Burhi Dihing River at Bolagaon near (Kaulongi) Village of Dibrugarh District. The body is yet to be identified. However, after preliminary investigations, police suspected to be of Mr. Serges, Soviet mining engineer, who was kidnapped and killed by ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam]. The body has been taken to the Assam Medical College Hospital at Dibrugarh for identification and postmortem.

Reportage on Policy To Move Gold Overseas

Minister Briefs Parliament on Move

BK1807163091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] The government today disclosed in Parliament that the Reserve Bank of India [RBI] has dispatched 46.91 tons of gold in four installments for safe custody with the Bank of England. Making a statement in both houses, the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, said the last installment of 12.09 tons of gold was dispatched today. The whole operation, he said, began on the fourth of this month and had to be carried out without any prior public announcement for reasons of security. Describing the export of gold as a painful necessity, the finance minister assured the house that hereafter no gold from Reserve Bank's stock will be sent abroad. The gold kept with the Bank of England can be pledged for borrowing about $400 million for a period of one month at a time to tide over the country's serious liquidity problem. He said sincere efforts will be made to bring back the gold to the country as early as possible.

Dr. Singh expressed confidence that the balance of payment position would significantly improve over a period of time as a result of various measures taken by the government.

Explaining in details the foreign exchange crisis, the finance minister pointed out that the Reserve Bank is empowered to keep up to 15 percent of its gold stocks abroad. The bank can take a decision in this matter on its own under RBI Act. However, as a measure of abundant caution, the bank consulted the previous Chandra Shekhar government which agreed with the move for raising short-term loans. Dr. Manmohan Singh said that he did no consider it [word indistinct] to countermand the decision. The finance minister also told the house that the government has taken a firm decision to honor all international commitment and not to default on repayment of debt.

Opposition Critical of Policy

BK1807125291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] The Reserve Bank of India [RBI] has confirmed airlifting of another consignment of gold to the Bank of England. An RBI press release issued in Bombay said the action was taken both as part of the reserve management policy and as a means of raising resources permissible by the RBI Act to meet the acute shortage of balance of payment position. It said the Reserve Bank has dispatched a total of 46.9 tons of gold so far to the Bank of England. The release further said there is no plan at present to pledge any more gold.

The government came under severe criticism for the dispatch of another installment of gold out of the country in the Parliament today. In the Lok Sabha, several opposition members were on their feet as soon as the question hour was over alleging that the gold is being sent out of the contry clandestinely without consulting the opposition. They said the action was also contempt of the house as a specific assurance was given by the government that no more gold will be sent out of the country. Raising the issue, Mr. Saifuddin Chowdhury, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], said he has given a notice for the adjournment motion on the issue.

Several other opposition members, including Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]; Mr. Rabi Ray, Janata Dal; Mr. Chitta Basu, Forward Bloc; and Mr. K.P. Unnikrishnan, Congress-S said the government must bring full facts about the economic crisis before the house and should not take piecemeal decisions. Ruling party members also demanded a white paper on the economic situation handed over to the Congress-I government by the previous governments.

The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, said the government has nothing to hide and will come before the house with a detailed statement at 1600 today.

The issue was also raised in the Rajya Sabha with the opposition parties warning the government of dire consequences if it continues taking such decisions without consulting Parliament. In a special mention, Mr. Gurudas Dasgupta of the CPI [Communist Party of India], Mr. Pramod Mahajan of BJP, and Mr. Sukamal Sen of CPI-M said that it reflected the government's mood to undermine the accepted policies of a socialist and planned economy.

'Dreaded Terrorists' Arrested Near Pakistan

BK1907032091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] In Rajasthan, two dreaded terrorists were arrested near the Indo-Pak border in Sriganganagar District. According to the police, the terrorists were planning to cross over the border to Pakistan. One of the arrested terrorists, Nirbhay Singh, is the self-proclaimed lieutenant general of the so-called Khalistan Commando Force carrying a reward of 40,000 rupees on his head. The police also recovered a letter from the terrorists, which shows that they were going to Pakistan for procuring arms and ammunition.

Seven Militants, One Policeman Killed in Punjab

BK1807033291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] In Punjab, seven militants and one policeman are among nine persons killed, while a child was rescued by the police within 24 hours of its kidnapping in separate incidents since yesterday. According to an official spokesman, the Amritsar police, in a swift action, rescued the four-year-old son of an army jawan [soldier] kidnapped by the militants from Village Fatehwal in Amritsar District. The spokesman said, in Patiala District, two of the three militants who went to the house of a farmer in a village in Govindgarh area and demanded 300,000 rupees on gun point were beaten to death by the neighbors who gathered there, but their third accomplice, however, managed to escape.

Iran

Khomeyni on 'Differences' With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD1807111391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, the deputies and directors general of the Foreign Ministry, and the diplomatic corps of the Islamic Republic of Iran met with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni at the shrine of the founder of the Islamic Republic yesterday evening. At this meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni referred to Imam Khomeyni's views on the main principles of foreign policy. Stressing the need for the Islamic Republic's active diplomatic involvement in world arenas, he said: Our system is based on the principle of velayat-e faqih, and we must implement the instruction of the vali-ye amr [guardian of the cause] of the Muslims in all aspects and general policy of the system. In his remarks on domestic issues and the discord between the political factions, he stressed: The two factions are followers of velayat-e faqih, sympathetic to the system and the revolution, and the viewpoints of the two sides must be raised to prepare the grounds for the growth and development of the society's foundations within the country.

He pointed out: The duty of the diplomatic system and foreign policy is to explain to the public and the world media that the discord between the political factions is confined to secondary issues, and that none of the factions dispute the principles and general policy of the system, which were drawn up by the esteemed leader, and they both consider themselves obedient to his eminence's orders and instructions.

He added: Despite criticism that some political factions might have clearly or vaguely about Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the two sides have realized that if someone is supposed to be in charge of the state executive system, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani is the best. [sentence as heard] But some create the doubt that I have differences of opinion with Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The truth of the matter is different—on the main principles we share the same opinion and style, and basically there is no discord between us.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khomeyni also stressed that in making criticism one should observe the principle of freedom of thought, conditional freedom, and piety, and avoid violating people's dignity.

In conclusion, he addressed the diplomats of the Islamic Republic abroad on the need for remaining firm on the implementation of the country's internal and foreign policy and in defense of the aspirations of the Islamic revolution saying: As the standard-bearers of the sacred system of the Islamic Republic abroad, you should strive to explain the Islamic revolution to foreigners in a manner expected by the leader of the revolution, the government, and the hezbollahi nation; and you should

not be afraid of the West's media sensation. You should remain committed to the imam's line and hostility toward arrogance, particularly the United States.

He concluded: To have diplomatic ties with the East and the West does not contradict the unchanging policy of Neither East nor West. We must try to establish our relations on mutual respect and should defend our Islamic and revolutionary values.

Velayati Answers Questions on Phone-In Program

LD1807120491 Teheran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0703 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Phone-in program with Foreign Minister Velayati; Mr. Khorram, "official in charge of the Headquarters for the Persian Gulf crisis and the secretariat of strategic issues, and the Headquarters for Resolution 598 and U.S. Relations;" Mr. Borujerdi, "the foreign minister's deputy for Asia and Pacific affairs;" Mr. Mottaki, "international affairs deputy;" and unidentified presenter—from the "In Line With the People, in Step With Officials" program]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Presenter] I would like to raise the first question by asking the foreign minister, Dr. Velayati, to explain the reason behind the delay in implementing UN Security Council Resolution 598.

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to you, dear listeners of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In connection with the question you raised, I must say that the main part of Resolution 598, which concerned the government, and the government of Iraq, is almost fully implemented. That is, the cease-fire, the withdrawal of forces, the exchange of most of the POW's, and the Iraqi retreat behind the lines identified by the Algerian accord signed in 1975, which is confirmed by the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group, have taken place. [passage omitted]

Several articles of the resolution have not been dealt with. For instance, Article Six, on determining the side which initiated the war, must be implemented. Article Seven, on setting up a committee to help with the reconstruction of Iran and Iraq also remains unresolved. On the basis of some evidences at our disposal, it is possible that some major powers in the Security Council are exerting influence, and this is an important factor behind the delay in implementing Resolution 598. [passage omitted]

[Presenter] Let us put a question to Mr. Khorram. In view of the fact that the Iraqi Government is trying to divert the people's attention from internal problems to the previous disputes between Iran and Iraq, during the past few months it has lodged a complaint with the UN on tension with Iran. What is your opinion on the current state of our relations with Iraq?

[Khorram] As you mentioned, Iraq lodged a complaint with the UN just as an internal uprising broke out in that country. We, as a neighbor and a country that understands the crisis, realized that Iraq is looking for another problem to distract the attention of the world public and its own nation. We, therefore, have refused to show a great deal of sensitivity toward this problem as a danger or a serious crisis; we are not going to show a great degree of sensitivity. We are striving, however, amid this highly complicated and critical issue of the Persian Gulf, to prevent any tension between Iran and Iraq. We, in accordance with our principles, hope that the people of Iraq will be able to determine their own destiny at this sensitive juncture of Iraq's history, and we hope that they will be able to find their desired system and government. Then, once again, Iraq would be able to return to the fold of the Persian Gulf countries and the international community. We are waiting for free elections in Iraq so that we can once again pursue the trend of normalizing our relations, which we started several months ago. Then we hope that as a result, our remaining POW's in Iraq will be released, and that we can jointly go ahead with the task of dredging the Arvand river [Shatt al-'Arab]. We hope that the two countries will be able to use their ports along this river on the basis of the 1975 treaty, while safeguarding their sovereignty. We would then be able to complete other tasks, such as demarcation of the borders, and pilgrimage to the holy shrines in Iraq.

[Caller] Would you please ask Dr. Velayati what progress has been made in determining the aggressor, and the payment of compensation in accordance with Resolution 598?

[Another caller] Good day to Dr. Velayati. I want to ask his excellency about the nature of Iran's future relations with America and, in view of current developments in South Africa, is it possible that Iran and South Africa may establish relations in the future? Thank you very much.

[Presenter] You heard the remarks of the respected listeners. I will ask Mr. Khorram to be kind enough to reply to the first question put by our dear listeners.

[Khorram] With regard to determining the aggressor, just as Mr. Velayati explained in the introduction, we have Paragraph Six of Resolution 598 which deals with this issue. At this particular juncture in history, all the countries of the world agree that on 22 September 1980, Iraq committed aggression against Iran; it attacked Iran. Perhaps after the invasion of Kuwait, if you remember, the majority of the world's leaders admitted to this, and emphasized it, and even the basis of their reasoning was that Iraq had committed aggression against Kuwait. We therefore have no problem now in making the world understand this matter. The issue is taking its course at the UN, it is proceeding, and the UN secretary general is dutybound to proceed with the measures. We, too, are endeavoring in such a way as to be able, God willing, to obtain the just rights of this nation after ten [as heard] years of war.

But, regarding the payment of compensation. Paragraph Seven of the resolution states that a committee be formed for the reconstruction of Iran and Iraq. The United Nations—both because there was more awareness of the problems involved after these developments, and because there was more readiness to respond to Iran's requests and its just rights—sent a delegation to determine the damage sustained by Iran during the war. This delegation came to Iran, and just as our dear people were informed through the mass media, the delegation was able to go about its work and prepare, as far as it was possible, an estimate of the damage inflicted. This report will soon be submitted to the secretary-general, and then to the Security Council. After this, the manner of attracting foreign aid for reconstruction purposes will be before us, and before the UN, and we will then proceed from there. But the mere fact that the United Nations sent a delegation, which prepared an estimate, is itself a positive sign as far as we are concerned.

[Presenter] I thank you. Allow me to ask Dr. Velayati to reply to the second question asked by one of our listeners about future relations between Iran and America, and also, between Iran and South Africa.

[Velayati] Relations between Iran and America were, from the start, such that it was evident to everyone that the Americans, that is, the American Government, is opposed to the Islamic revolution of Iran—an active opponent—that is, it has not refrained from endeavoring to confront the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic, on any occasion and at any time. It has always opposed us in political and international arenas, and acted against us. It confiscated our properties; it supported elements of the past regime and the hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] in various ways; and it continues its hostility and enmity toward us. Our relations with America are therefore just like they were in the past—that is, we have no relations, and we have no plans to establish relations.

As to South Africa, the difficulty we had with that government—a difficulty which still stands, in some ways—is the issue of racial discrimation. The South African Government is based on the principle of racial discrimination. Some reforms have taken place following resistance by the blacks there, who form the majority, but this is not enough. That is, the blacks of South Africa do not consider that these reforms are enough, and they believe that international pressure on the racist regime should continue until the rule of Apartheid is dismantled, and people are granted equal rights. Thus, until these objectives are fulfilled, we too will have no relations with South Africa.

[Presenter] Thank you. With regard to relations between Iran and America, you said that just as in the past, we...[Velayati interrupts]...have no relations.

[Presenter] Even if America alters its stance toward the Islamic revolution?

[Velayati] You see, as far as we can evaluate the behavior of the Americans, there are no signs of any change in the American's stance.

[Presenter] Thank you very much for your remarks. We will put the next qustion to Mr. Mottaki. Just as you are aware, the Islamic Republic of Iran has become more active in the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] and it seems that it wishes to pursue Islamic objectives in the international Islamic community through the venues of that conference. What are the potentials of the ICO for solving the difficulties of Islamic societies?

[Mottaki] In the name of God, the compassionate the merciful. [passage omitted] Our role became prominent in the ICO in the course of the past two years, due to the need to have a presence at international forums. [passage omitted] In the coming months, that is, in the month of Mordad [23 July-22 August], and toward the end of the month of Azar [22 November-20 December] there will be two major sessions of the conference: The ministerial session in Istanbul in the month of Mordad, and the session of the leaders of Islamic countries in December [1991] in Dakara, Senegal's capital. [passage omitted] There is much potential in the ICO. After the talks we had with the Conference Secretariat and with the ICO secretary general—during the two trips he took to Iran in the course of the past two years—we decided to set up a permanent mission at the ICO in Jiddah. We also have a separate ambassador at the ICO for that purpose. Also, it was decided that one of our prominent lawyers should cooperate with the important office of the legal adviser to the ICO secretary-general. In short, there is great potential in the political, economic, and cultural fields in the ICO on the basis of cooperation between the participant countries, which is vital today. We hope to be able to utilize these potentials.

[Presenter] Thank you very much. [passage omitted]

[Caller] I have a question regarding the Irano-French financial disputes. There have been several meetings, and yet no results so far. In particular, it is noteworthy that recently there has been no definite accord; indeed, the meetings found no common ground. Please clarify it for the nation—after all, you are the guardians, and you should tell the people what has happened. How much does France owe us, and why does France refuse to pay.

[Presenter] Mr. Velayati, we heard the question by that dear listener. I need not repeat it. Please give us your explanations.

[Velayati] Irano-French financial disputes go back a relatively long time. Since the Iranian Islamic revolution, a number of contracts signed during the era of the previous regime were either suspended, postponed, or abandoned—which was not really unexpected or abnormal, considering the special conditions prevailing at the onset of the revolution. After a while, the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the time [as heard] decided to follow up the financial, legal, and political disputes of the Islamic Republic of Iran with

various French companies and government ministries. If we decide to classify these disputes, they fall into two categories—I mean the contracts and disputes related to them. One is the financial category, and the other is the technical aspect of peaceful utilization of nuclear power.

Motivated by political reasons, the French government was not prepared to honor its commitments—commitments it made prior to the Islamic revolution. We must plainly say that the French Goverment's refusal to meet its commitments was due to the changes in political conditions.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Republic of Iran was insisting that the said agreements be implemented to the best interests of the government and the nation of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Well, all this required protracted negotiations between the interested departments; these talks continued almost with no part being played directly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In many cases, they failed to reach any agreement; in some instances they took the case to international courts or arbitration. Finally, to eliminate the multiplicity of the negotiating authorities, the government decided to entrust the whole affair to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Iran to carry out the talks with its French counterpart.

During the term of the previous government—Mr Chirac's cabinet—talks were initiated between myself and the French foreign affairs minister of the time, Mr. Raymond. Eventually these talks led to the payment of a sum of $630 million as part of the assets of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran held by the government of France.

Following the fall of the Chirac cabinet, and the coming to power of the new cabinet—Socialists—our talks continued. Two years ago, however, the two governments decided once again to begin talks in a serious manner between the representatives of the two sides, who were undersecretaries of the two countries' foreign ministries.

We had them owing sums to us, while they simply had claims against us. For instance, they used to tell us that according to the agreement we should have given unprocessed uranium to Eurodif, a multinational company in France. Then the unprocessed uranium would have been enriched and returned to Iran for use in nuclear reactors for power stations.

[Presenter] With respect, when was that agreement signed?

[Velayati] There are numerous agreements. One goes back to 1975. That is the most specific one. And then there are a number of agreements in the form of appendixes. If we talk about them, then our program will drag on. In any case, they claimed that we had failed to act on time regarding that issue—during the time of revolution. Therefore, they claimed, the government of France had sustained losses that we should meet.

In reply we said that we could not see a political will on the part of the other party to act upon its own commitments. They would resort to various pretexts in order not to accomplish the work the way it was specified in the agreement.

Meanwhile, the $1 billion loan extended to them during the time of the previous regime should be repaid, plus accrued interest and compensation for late payment. Anyway, the amount they claimed against us representing the damages and late payments and other issues far exceeded the amount they owed us, and which we claimed.

[Presenter] According to their calculations, not only had we no claims but we also ended up owing them money too?

[Velayati] Perhaps it is the first time I am saying this to clarify the issue, but I must say we were in a sensitive, complicated, and difficult position when we first began talks. We engaged in protracted talks—perhaps it is no exaggeration to say that several thousand hours of talks were carried out for talks to be raised from the experts level to the ministerial level. [passage omitted]

We finally arrived at the decision to pool all claims, demands, and debts. In the final analysis, the French, after long talks, were prepared to pay us a further $300 million and settle everything. We did not accept it; talks continued until we arrived from the figure of $300 million to the figure of $1 billion. That was the final stage, on the last visit Roland Dumas made to Tehran, where we talked. There we finally agreed that the French must pay a sum of $1 billion to Iran, so that the two parties could declare all accounts settled. From the point of view of the financial and legal experts of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and also seeking the view of the honorable president of the republic, that figure is a fair one. The said understanding is valid.

On three occasions during the past months I held talks with French President Francois Mitterrand. In his talks, he explicitly said to me: I want you—that is me—and French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas to solve this problem with a political will and away from the complications which the experts usually have in their talks.

Now I say that it was such political will by the two countries, and among the two foreign ministers and their colleagues which, thanks be to God, enabled us to overcome the greater part of these difficulties.

On the last trip I made to France, a memorandum of understanding was drafted in 16 clauses. We arrived at an understanding on 15 clauses; we had difficulty over the 16th clause. So I returned to Tehran. Within a space of a few days, Ronald Dumas sent his deputy. There was agreement on the 16th clause. Now, the last point which remains to be settled is this: The two parties are debating on the contents of the two letters which must be exchanged between the two foreign ministers. If accord is reached on the contents of the two letters, then we think

that all the financial disputes—not only financial disputes but also legal and political disputes—between Iran and France will be resolved.

The debate was not merely on receiving all our claims from France. It was about whether we should remain in these agreements or not. Rather, as an example, we wanted to remain in Eurodif. The French did not agree to that issue initially. Now, we have managed to have their agreement to remain in Eurodif as a shareholder—in the company which enriches uranium.

I believe, God willing, that if an understanding is reached on the contents of these two letters, we will have arrived at the end of the disputes between Iran and France—very complicated and extended disputes. That would be a victory for both countries, especially when both have the will to have strong ties in the future. Mr. Mitterrand told me personally: I hope that you and our foreign minister manage to solve all the disputes before my trip to Tehran. His visit to Tehran will be around early autumn. That, too, is our hope.

[Presenter] Two telephone calls from our dear listeners are ready. We will now hear them.

[Caller] It is about the respect with which Iranians living abroad should be treated. I wanted to ask that during Velayati's trips to countries with whom we ostensibly have good diplomatic relations, will there be talks and agreements on the respect with which Iranians living in, or traveling to those countries are treated, particularly regarding the behavior of the police and the authorities of those countries?

[Another caller] What is to become of the Iranians who lived in Kuwait and are now in Iran. We left before the war. All our possessions are in Kuwait. I wanted to ask what is to become of us? We were in Kuwait for 15 years and came to Iran before the war. We went to the Kuwaiti Embassy, but they would not let us return to Kuwait.

[Another caller] I have a message for the foreign minister. Please ask him. My sister-in-law has become a naturalized German. She applied to come to Iran. We went to the Foreign Ministry. They gave us a form and said complete it. After we completed it, they made an appointment for us. They said come back in a month for an interview. A month later we went back. They said it has been refused. We asked why? They said because she has become naturalized. [passage omitted] I ask the foreign minister to provide facilities for people like us whose relatives have lived abroad for years—and have become naturalized, so that they can at least visit their relatives.

[Another caller] In line with the people, in step with officials. I have a question about Egypt. It seems that relations have recently been restored. What is the situation?

[Khorram] [passage omitted]

[Presenter] I ask Mr. Velayati to answer the second question. It is about the respect with which Iranians living abroad, particularly those with whom we have good relations, are treated.

[Velayati] It is one of the fundamental duties of the Islamic Republic and its missions abroad to defend the rights of Iranian nationals, and to do their best to safeguard the dignity of Iranians. The efforts made in various places in that respect have eventually borne fruit. At the beginning of the program, the lady who talked about Hajj answered the question asked by this dear listener. She thanked the Foreign Ministry and the government for their efforts this year to safeguard the dignity of Iranian pilgrims. That is our duty. We have a request for our dear compatriots; that is, they too should strive to preserve the dignity of Iranians abroad, and not do anything to jeopardize the dignity of Iranians. Of course, there might be a few who may behave like that, but it is up to the others to encourage them to do what is right and to forbid them to do what is wrong. [passage omitted]

[Presenter] Thank you very much. Do you remember the third question, or should I repeat it? It is about nationality.

[Velayati] Under the Civil Law of the Islamic Republic of Iran, dual nationality is forbidden. That is, an Iranian cannot hold the citizenship of another country. As soon as he accepts another country's citizenship, his Iranian citizenship is automatically revoked. If that lady wishes to become an Iranian citizen again—and we welcome this and will facilitate it—she should declare it. However, if she wants to come to Iran and visit her relatives, like a foreigner coming to Iran, she can obtain a visa to visit Iran. There is no problem with that. The lady's brother-in-law can contact Mr. Khorram, who is on this program, at the Foreign Ministry to solve his particular problem.

[Presenter] Thank you very much. Mr. Velayati, there is very little time left. Could you briefly comment on relations with Egypt.

[Velayati] Iran and Egypt have no formal ties, but the two sides have agreed to open interest sections in Cairo and Tehran. That has been accomplished. But there are no formal ties between Iran and Egypt.

[Presenter] We thank the dear guests who have taken part in our program, and you, dear listeners, who were with us. We say goodbye until next week, and next week's program. God bless.

Iranian Ships To Use Soviet Ports

LD1807165891 Tehran IRNA in English 1132 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] 18 July, IRNA—Iranian ships will be permitted to berth at Krasnovodsk port, in the Soviet Republic of Turkmenia, said director general of the Anzali ports and shipping department, Naqi Aydon Thursday.

Aydon who chaired the 19th Iran-Soviet marine transportation conference, started here Saturday, said that

arrangements have been made for cooperation in specialised fields, rescue operations and establishment of headquarters for these purposes in Baku, Krasnovodsk (in Soviet Union), and Anzali and Nowshahr (in Iran).

During the 6-day conference the two sides also discussed ways of fighting against pollution in the Caspian Sea.

They also voiced willingness for establishment of regular lines for container ships to prevent damage on purchased goods.

Nepal & Bhutan

Pay Commission Formed for Nepalese Civil Servants

BK1807234091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1736 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Kathmandu, July 18 (AFP)—In an apparent bid to solve labour unrest by civil servants, the Nepal Government formed Thursday a high-level "pay commission."

Headed by former Accountant General Narakanta Adhikari, the five-member commission is to submit a report within three months, taking into account government policy and Nepal's difficult economic situation, a cabinet source said.

"Non-official grade" civil servants have held a "pen-down" strike for the past week but have been agitating almost three weeks in support of higher salaries and improved housing, transportation, health and other benefits.

The government of Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala government has asked its employees to desist from agitation until completion of the pay commission report.

Witnesses said more than 25,000 employees of various state-run corporations, Tribhuvan University, the Nepal Bar Association and other bodies held a "solidarity chain" outside Kathmandu's Army parade ground on Thursday.

Also, the Nepal Civil Servants' Organisation said the pen-down protest was 90 percent successful, but Home Ministry Spokesman Ramananda Vaidya disputed the claim.

"Except in some public service offices, including the postal service and the supreme court, civil servants have returned to their work gradually in large numbers," he said.

In addition to Mr. Adhikari, other pay commission members include Finance Ministry Secretary Sashi Narayan Shan and the former secretary of the General Administration, Mangal Krishna Shrestha.

Maldivian President Arrives To Consult on Summit

BK1807235491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1658 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Kathmandu, July 18 (AFP)—The president of the Maldives, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, arrived here Thursday on a two-day visit in his capacity as chairman of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

He was to consult with King Birendra and Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala on the sixth SAARC summit, to be held in Colombo in November, a Foreign Ministry source said.

He is the first head of state to come to Nepal—home to SAARC's secretariat—since popular unrest in 1990 led to the creation of a multi-party constitutional monarchy here.

Mr. Gayoe who took over SAARC's rotating chairmanship at its last summit in Male, is to leave Friday for New Delhi to continue his consultations.

(In Colombo, the Foreign Ministry said Mr. Gayoom would visit Sri Lanka for three days from August 12, also his capacity as SAARC chairman.)

SAARC groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Pakistan

Constitution Amendment Bill Passed

Special Powers Against Crimes

BK1807161291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] A message just received says the National Assembly has approved the Constitution Twelfth Amendment Bill 1991, granting special powers to the government to deal with serious crimes. This bill was passed with more than a two-thirds majority. One hundred and fifty-four votes were cast in favor of it and 26 against. The National Assembly session has now been adjourned sine die.

Sharif Remarks on Bill

BK1907025591 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] The National Assembly tonight passed the Constitution 12th Amendment Bill 1991 aimed at ensuring speedy dispensation of justice in the prevailing abnormal conditions in the country. The bill, which was piloted by the minister of state for law, justice and parliamentary affairs, Chaudhary Amir Hussain, was adopted by votes in excess of the necessary two-thirds majority.

The bill makes two changes in the Constitution. With the addition of a new Article 2-12 B, it provides for the establishment of special courts for trying heinous offenses. It enables the federal government to constitute by law as many special courts as it may consider necessary in order to ensure speedy trial of cases of persons accused of heinous offenses specified by law for being gruesome, brutal, and sensational in character, or shocking to public morality. The heinous offenses in

question will be referred to special courts by the federal government or an authority or person authorized by it.

Special courts shall consist of a person who is or has been qualified for appointment as a judge of the high court and is appointed by the federal government after consultation with the chief justice of the high court. It provides for constituting as many supreme appellate courts as the federal government may consider necessary for an appeal against the sentence or final order of a special court. The chairman of the supreme appellate court shall be a judge of the Supreme Court to be nominated by the federal government after consultation with the chief justice of Pakistan. It will consist of two judges of the high court to be nominated by the federal government after consultation with the chief justice of the high court concerned. Both the special court and supreme appellate court shall decide their case or an appeal within 30 days.

Proceedings of or the orders or sentence passed by the special court or a supreme appellate court shall not be challenged in any court. The 5th Schedule of the Constitution has been amended to raise the salary and pension admissible to judges of the Supreme Court and high courts. The president has also been empowered to revise salaries and pensions of the judges of these courts as and when that becomes necessary. The step has been taken in view of the ever increasing cost of living.

The Article 2-12 B regarding the establishment of special courts shall remain in force for a period of three years and shall cease to form part of the Constitution and stand repealed at the end of this period.

The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, said the constitutional amendment bill passed by the National Assembly tonight has the full support of the nation as it would enable the provision of speedy justice to the people. Talking to newsmen at the Parliament House after the passage of the bill, he said the support extended by the house in its passage was exemplary. This would help in punishing those involved in heinous and sensational crimes. He said the passage of the bill is part of the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] manifesto to provide justice to the people at their doorsteps. He described it as the first phase of the steps taken for the provision of inexpensive and speedy justice to the people. The prime minister said the police force was also being reorganized to serve the common man according to his expectations. The police force would be made a reliable institution, work was in hand at a faster pace.

In reply to a question, the prime minister said they wanted to take the opposition along in all important legislative matters. Some of his senior colleagues met the opposition members in this connection and sought their cooperation in the passage of the amendment which was aimed at assisting the victims. He, however, regretted that the opposition did not cooperate in this important constitutional amendment. Asked to comment on the voting of three PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] members in favor of the amendment, the prime minister said everybody acted according to his conscience.

In reply to a question, the prime minister said one-third of the money received by the government from denationalization will be used for strengthening the country's defenses, one-third on health, education, and other social sector programs, and one-third on the repayment of debts to rid the country of huge foreign loans.

Army Chief Sees Conspiracy Against Government

BK1807164691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Army chief General Mirza Aslam Begum has said the bomb blasts, massacre of innocent people, derailment of trains, and spreading baseless rumors like the enforcement of martial law is part of a premeditated conspiracy aimed at damaging the confidence of the people on the democratically-elected government. He said this in his separate addresses to the [word indistinct] gathering, Pakistani International Airlines Officials and Gentlemen cadets in Abbotabad today. He said all these events pose a threat to the security of the country but our enemies should understand that Pakistani armed forces are prepared to foil the malicious designs of the enemies by all means and are fully capable of doing so.

Protest to Afghanistan on Violation of Airspace

BK1907024091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Pakistan has strongly protested to Afghanistan over the flagrant violations of Pakistani territory by Kabul regime forces. The Kabul regime's charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office yesterday and was told that Afghan forces fired a Scud missile at the Ali Mangal area of Kurram Agency on 5 July. Two Kabul regime aircraft violated Pakistani airspace in North Waziristan Agency and dropped a bomb on 12 July. The Afghan charge d'affaires was asked to convey to the Kabul regime that all responsibilities for the serious consequences of such premeditated and unprovoked attacks will rest with Kabul authorities.

Thermal Projects Agreement Signed With Belgium

BK1907000091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Under an agreement signed in Islamabad today, Belgium will provide 200 million Belgian Francs to Pakistan, which will be used for the Guddu-Combine Cycle Thermal Powerhouse extension project. The Water and Power Development Authority is implementing this project with combined investments from the Asian Development Bank and Germany.

Belgian Ambassador to Pakistan Lauwaert and R.A. Hussain, secretary in the Economic Affairs Division, signed the agreement on behalf of their governments.